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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

DON'T KNOW WHO THIS GUY IS? SOMEHOW, NEITHER DOES OSCAR

OSCAR ISAAC FROM 'INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS' DIDN'T GET A NOD FROM THE ACADEMY, BUT METRO LOOKS AT WHO DID PAGE 29

Paying drunks with drinks

Dutch program that pays alcoholics with beer solves nuisance behaviour PAGE 15

Calgary's Home, Renovation & Decor Show
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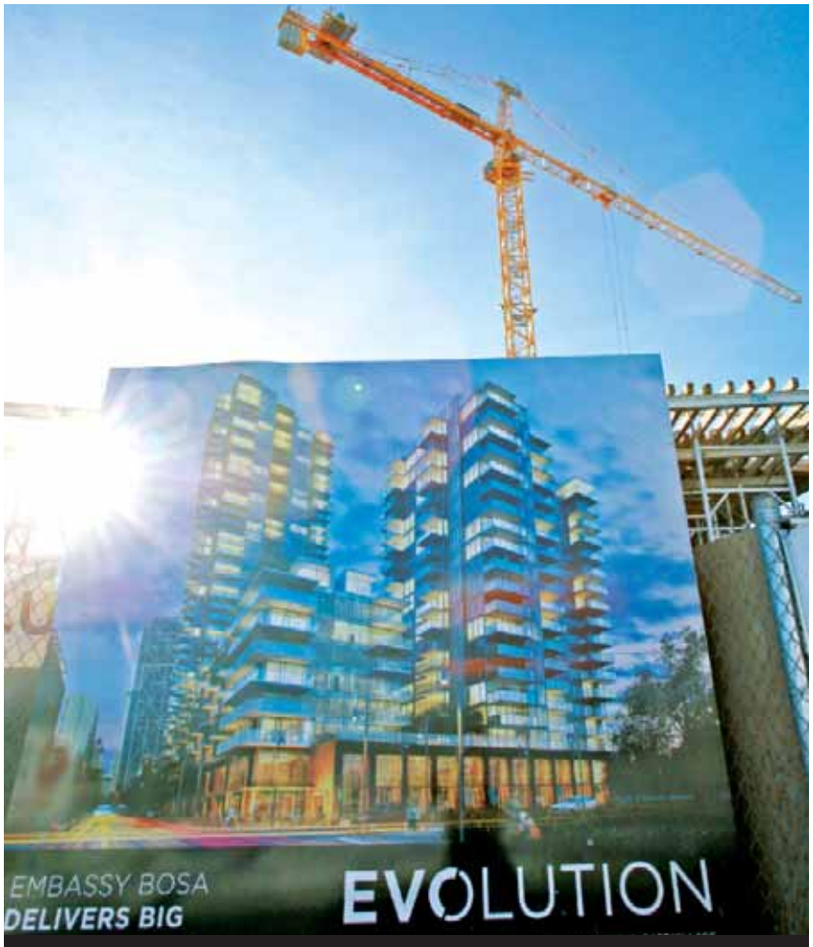

EAST VILLAGE SEEN IN NEW LIGHT

One of many cranes now towering above Calgary's East Village works on a condo construction project. The area is steadily losing the stigma it once carried and simultaneously attracting more investment, officials with the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation said Thursday, as they unveiled new renderings of what the community will look like as it develops. See story, pages 10 and 11.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Muzzled cat, dog found dead

Grisly alley discoveries. $5,000 reward being offered, investigation ongoing

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Animal cruelty investigators are awaiting tests to confirm a cat found dead in a southeast Calgary alley Thursday was starved to death in what could be the second such grisly discovery in a week.

The feline was found in an alley in the 200 block of 99th Avenue SE, just 10 metres from where a young female husky was found starved to death Jan. 9.

Both animals had tape put over their mouths, according to Calgary Humane Society spokesperson Christy Thompson.

"It being muzzled would have obviously not allowed it to have any drink or food," she said of the deceased cat.

Earlier in the day, society investigators gave out a plea for public assistance as they attempted to track down the owner of the husky — an area resident that discovered the animal told Metro it was obviously malnourished, as its ribs were showing and it had some form of packing tape over its mouth.

Quoted

"This looks like a blatant act.... It's hard to come up with a feasible situation where this dog would have with this tape over her mouth accidentally."

Brad Nichols, Humane Society manager of cruelty investigations

Shock over the initial discovery prompted local group Vets To Go to announce a $5,000 reward for information leading to a conviction.

"Everybody who has a pet in Calgary is now at risk, that's the scary part," said the organization's president, Greg Habstritt.

Vets To Go representatives have been lobbying for stricter animal-abuse laws in Canada and said the reward offered could grow in the coming days as they plan on raising funds.

"Enough's enough," Habstritt said. "This (reward) shows we're serious about this and hopefully it brings somebody to justice.

"Then we'll watch to see what happens — the entire community is going to watch what happens here and they're going to hold the court system very accountable to that. If it doesn't come out the way people would like to see, hopefully that creates some weight of change."

Humane Society investigators expected to release more information about the dead cat Thursday, but had already begun canvassing the neighbourhood and speaking with residents in hopes of tracking down the husky owner.

Brad Nichols, the society's manager of cruelty investigations, deemed the husky discovery rare, given that most cases he deals with stem from neglect or a lack of education about proper care for pets.

"This looks like a blatant act," he said. "It's hard to come up with a feasible situation where this dog would have with this tape over her mouth accidentally."

Nichols said the penalties for such an act, if deemed intentional, could include both counts of animal neglect and cruelty and carry a sentence of up to five years in prison, a maximum $20,000 fine and a lifetime ban on owning animals.

Anyone who recognizes the dog or has information about the owner should call the Calgary Humane Society at 403-205-4455.

Follow Jeremy Nolais on Twitter @Metro_Nolais

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Pet safety

Animal deaths put Willow Park residents on high alert

Pet owners in Willow Park are keeping their furry friends on a shorter leash until authorities find out who left two muzzled animal corpses in an alley.

Out on a walk Thursday, Glenn Anderson told Metro he's concerned about the safety of his nine-year-old Jack Russell, Nelson.

"You need to keep a good eye on your animals," Anderson said. "If they have to go outside, then you need to go outside and watch them.

"You never know if they're being taken out of yards or whatever else."

On Jan. 9, area resident John Wutzke phoned city officials after finding a dead husky behind his house in the 200 block of 99 Avenue SE.

Wutzke said the dog was clearly malnourished — its ribs were showing — and there appeared to be packing tape over its mouth.

"And this is a park where kids play," he said Thursday, pointing to where the grim discovery was made. "They don't need to see a dog after the crows have been at him for a couple of hours.

"Puppies don't deserve that kind of stuff, they just don't.... A puppy is to give you undying love and attention and they do that. They don't deserve this kind of bullis–t."

A cat was found Thursday with its mouth taped shut only metres away from where the dog was found.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Warm weather mixed with snow is creating havoc for crews trying to clear soft roads around the city. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

City sticking to snow action plan

Steady as she goes. Crews are making 'slow but sure' progress on four-week strategy, despite latest weather curveballs

Calgary is about a third of the way through its month-long residential snow-removal program, but recent snowfalls and fluctuating temperatures are forcing crews to go back to some areas previously deemed "completed," city officials said Thursday.

"The warm weather is creating some additional challenges for crews so we're going to have to go back to some of the streets," said roads spokesperson Carissa Vescio.

Crews planned a return to Saddleridge, for example, to do more clearing and flat-blading after melting and refreezing snow resulted in newly formed ruts on many streets, she said.

City crews and hired contractors will stay on the established schedule, Vescio added, and residents can still rely on the online map the city posted earlier this month detailing which streets would be hit when.

"The 'week of' dates that are on the map are still relevant," she said.

City crews are still "going gangbusters" on snow clearing, said spokesman Sean Somers, with 125 pieces of equipment on the streets Thursday augmented by another 206 hired contractors.

"It has been an exceptional winter for us in just about every way," Somers added, noting Environment Canada has issued all sorts of extreme-weather warnings. "Just about all of them, with the exception of tropical storms and tornadoes, had been issued in the City of Calgary over the course of the last seven weeks."

Somers said the soft snow created by the warm weather has slowed crews down a bit, but they remain on schedule overall. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Feedback

Calgarians react to the snow situation on Twitter:

- **@LGCalgary (in Coventry Hills):** so glad snow REMOVED in front of school! Finally can see sidewalk & curb. No more cars where kids walk. Thank you!
- **@Candiecrazelzzy (with photo of snow ridge in front of driveways):** So YYC Snow Removal Workers think this is funny? We can't park in our own driveway Thanks.

New homeowner victimized by vandals: 'It was heartbreaking'

Auburn Bay. Culprit stuffed drains and turned on the taps — flooding out the home

BRYAN WEISMILLER
bryan.weismiller@metronews.ca

First-time homebuyer Calvin Yip couldn't contain his excitement the week before moving into his new digs in Auburn Bay.

However, that glowing enthusiasm suddenly sunk with a call from his sister who said vandals had struck their house.

Yip left work immediately and arrived to find his southeast suburban paradise had been flooded-out. The culprit had stuffed the drains and turned on the taps.

He was told the laminate flooring needed to be peeled back and the other repairs would take four to eight weeks.

Got a tip? Call ...

- Police reported 239 new residential properties were damaged in the past year, although others are said to be unaccounted for.
- Anyone with tips is urged call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or police at 403-266-1234.

It was a huge blow for Yip.

But it was almost tougher for his recently separated sister as her two little girls needed to be shuffled into rental accommodations on short notice.

"It was really hard," he said. "What do you plan for?

"Do you take some of their stuff or do you take all their stuff?"

Luckily for them, the distraught couple weren't on the hook for the damages and the builder, Jayman, set them up with a temporary place to stay.

The repairs were finished two months later.

Still, they became a statistic in what authorities are calling a citywide problem.

Given the city's booming growth in new communities, vandals have now landed in the crosshairs of Calgary cops.

Authorities announced Thursday they were teaming up with Calgary home builders to slash the number of cases of break and enter, vandalism and thefts around the Calgary area.

"Acts of vandalism, theft and break and enter are criminal acts that will be investigated and charges will be pursued," said Cst. Sarah Killington, District 8 Community Resource Officer.

Trevor Klein, safety auditor for Jayman Homes, said the crimes hurt his workers morale and taint the house-buying experience.

"When we have these issues happen it affects the dreams of our homeowners" Klein told reporters.

Auburn Bay residents Calvin Yip, left, and his sister Mayeleen Zapata were distraught to learn their new place had been hit by vandals in September. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Pocket Homes aims to make it easier to find the perfect house

The Pocket Homes team, from left, Sean Rabey, Dan Eisner, Matt Diteljan, Scott Haggar, Jake Dyck and Clint Kilmer. CONTRIBUTED

Matt Diteljan knows how looking to buy a house can quickly lead to information overload, and thinks he's got the solution with a new app due to launch in the coming weeks.

"We found there's not really a product out there that makes finding a home online really, really simple," said Diteljan, CEO of Pocket Homes, a local startup aiming to fill that gap.

While online MLS listings have made it easy to browse all sorts of properties, Diteljan said communicating back and forth with real estate agents and significant others about those properties remains a challenge.

"Before we know it, we have this long chain of emails, and we can't really remember what we said about each listing," he said.

The Pocket Homes app, which is currently accepting requests for interested beta testers, would change all that.

"We've created the platform where all the conversations are tracked about each listing," Diteljan said. "It makes it really, really easy for people to view homes and then discuss homes with their family and friends or their realtor."

Andrew Browne of Startup Calgary said the real-estate app will be featured as an upcoming "Startup of the Week" and is part of a growing boom in Calgary's tech and IT-based industry.

And while it's still in the prototype stage, Diteljan said the company is getting "really close" to launching the app first in Calgary, and eventually across Canada.

For more information or to request a beta-testing invite, visit pockethomesapp.com.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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Schools hit by flood to get renos

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Better buffering foundations and moving key operating systems above ground are among the measures being considered to protect three Calgary schools against future floods, according to the education minister, but it's unclear when the mitigation work will be completed.

A replacement facility at Elbow Park will include better measures to prevent surges of water from pooling underneath the structure, something that happened in June's flood.

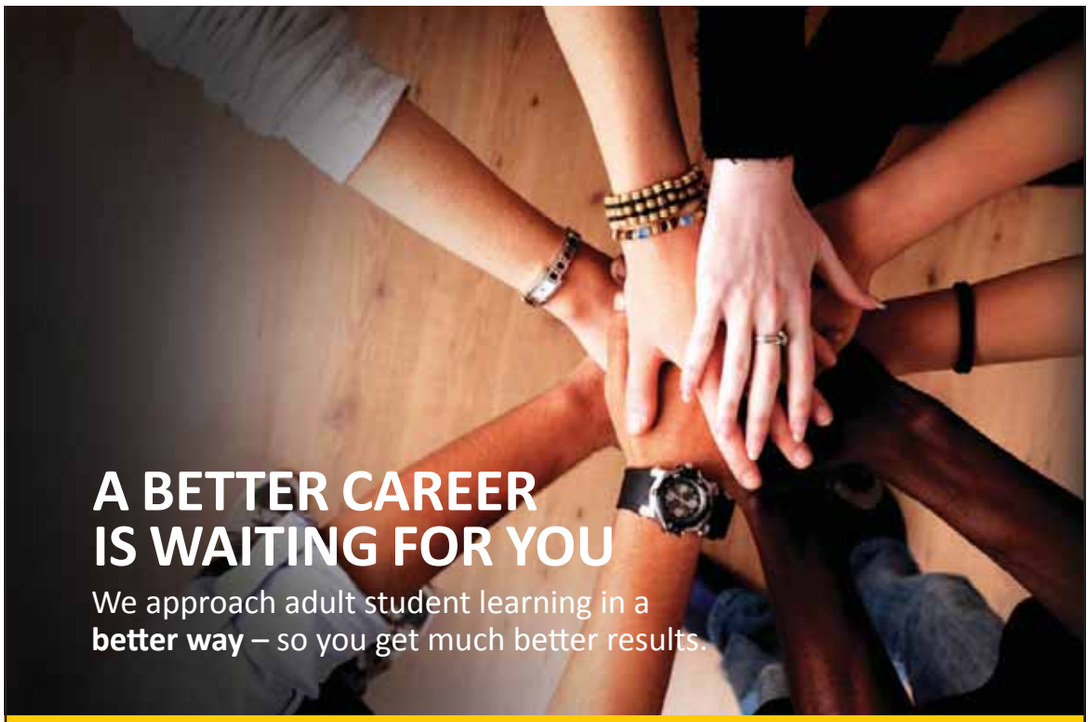
Education Minister Jeff Johnson said plans are also in the works to boost protection at both St. Mary's High School and Rideau Park School. Both sites were also damaged in June but managed to reopen in time for September. At Rideau, specifically, water poured into the bottom level, lifting furniture off the ground and swirling it violently into light fixtures.

"Those schools have been there a long time. They're an important part of the community," Johnson said. "We can do flood mitigation to keep them in the community ... the school boards will work on that and, like with any community, we'll work to support them."

Both St. Mary's and Elbow Park appear to be in what's considered the "flood fringe" on provincial flood maps and officials have said municipal facilities in those areas will be provided funds to upgrade flood buffers, but Rideau is not.

Johnson, however, said all 80 schools damaged province-wide in the flood will receive assistance.

Rideau Park School's basement level was left in ruins after floodwaters poured into the facility in June. METRO FILE



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IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

For as long as there have been living creatures on this earth, there has been the need to go to the washroom. It's probably the most natural thing we can do. So why on Earth is it so hard to do it in downtown Calgary?

Before we venture down this road, let's establish some ground rules: I'll only be talking about pee. Because no one, and I mean no one, should ever publicly talk about the other thing. Also, I know you can relieve yourself in alleys, but for the sake of making a point, let's stay within the lines of the law.

More than the rush hour, the delayed CTrains or the long lines at the Sunterra salad bar in January, nothing is more stressful then when the urge to go hits you along Stephen Avenue. Sure, if you have an office nearby, you can usually just wait it out. But if you're just visiting the downtown, the search for a washroom becomes as dramatic as an animal documentary narrated by Richard Attenborough.

So in the name of journalism, or whatever it is when a blogger gets a column, earlier this week, armed with a large coffee, I went in search for the best downtown washrooms. With the simple rule that, like most people that visit downtown Calgary, I had to stick to staying on or around Stephen Avenue.

It wasn't long until my bladder started sending out warning signals and so the search began.

According to the city, there are several public options available. They include Eau Claire Plaza, Central Memorial Park and the automated public toilets in the East Village and Tomkins Park. The only actual public washroom in the downtown core can be found in Olympic Plaza, and do you know what? It's actually not that bad. But with the washrooms closing at 9 p.m., you're out of luck if you want to go for a late night stroll ... and pee.

No matter the time of day, hotels are likely your best bet. Along Stephen Avenue there are a couple of hotel options, none of which asks you if you're a guest when you're walking in. The Hyatt's washrooms are perhaps the least accessible, making you go up to the third floor. Le Germain's and The Palliser's can be found on their second floors. The Marriot is easily the best option. Their loos are located just across from the front desk, require no key, are open 24 hours a day and, because of their proximity to hotel staff, tends to keep away those who might be using their washroom for things other than for what they are intended.

I'm not sure why the City of Calgary hasn't felt the urgency to look into 24-hour public washrooms in the downtown core. But until they do, City Hall has some great washrooms on their ground floor.

Sure they're only open until 6 p.m., but ask Mayor Nenshi enough while he's peeing and he might reconsider.

Nowhere to do it

If you're just visiting the downtown, the search for a washroom becomes as dramatic as an animal documentary narrated by Richard Attenborough.

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YEG. Judge scolded teen for forgetting pipe bomb in bag at airport

Skylar Murphy admitted in court that he put together a pipe bomb with a friend last year and planned to blow up a shed in rural Alberta for fun, but forgot the explosive in his bag until he was in line at the Edmonton airport.

Screening staff found the device but — in an admitted foul-up — didn't immediately call RCMP and allowed the 18-year-old passenger to board a plane to Mexico with his family for a holiday.

While recent news of the incident has sparked calls for changes to Canada's airport-security system, the judge who handled the case had her own stern words for the young bomb-maker.

"If the authorities had missed that pipe bomb and you had gone in Mexico, through a screening device, you would not even get a trial," said provincial court Judge Marilyn White in a court hearing last month. A transcript of the hearing was released Thursday.

"You would be in a Mexican jail. And your grandfather and your family would be visiting you in that jail. And you would probably be learning Spanish by now, if you survived.

"I doubt you would have survived."

Edmonton MP Laurie Hawn, who sits on the Canada-U.S. Permanent Joint Board on Defence, said he was flabbergasted by "such abject failure of common sense."

He believes the workers involved should have been fired and he wants to see CATSA review everything, including recruitment, training, supervision and salaries.

CATSA says there are about 5,000 screening staff at Canada's airports. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cautionary tale

"You would be in a Mexican jail. And your grandfather and your family would be visiting you in that jail. And you would probably be learning Spanish by now, if you survived." Judge Marilyn White

Operator, could you help me? Calgarians make record number of 311 calls

Complaints filed to the city's 311 service snowballed Wednesday in what amounted to a record-breaking tally.

A total of 8,793 phone calls were logged, which translates into a more than 630 per cent increase from the average, according to new municipal data.

Metro exclusively reported earlier this month that the city 311 system had experienced a 1,000 per cent snow-related call increase in December 2013, compared with the year prior.

City officials attributed the surge to huge snowfalls combined with unseasonably warm weather. Callers waited as long as 45 minutes to speak to an operator, although the average was closer to half an hour

The city has now set up a dedicated page on its website to deal with the barrage. It also reminded smartphone users of its mobile app.

"You can use the app or the online system and the information is treated in the exact same way as if it were called in," transportation spokesman Sean Somers told reporters. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

University of Calgary students could take an extended break from the crowds at MacEwan Student Centre and elsewhere each fall as they will soon be asked whether they support a fall reading week, much like the one offered during the winter semester. METRO FILE

Student leaders pitch fall breaks

Reading week part deux? Days off could promote mental health at U of C, MRU

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Adding a week-long breather to the fall-semester schedule at Calgary universities could do wonders for stressed students, representatives pitching the idea said Thursday.

Winter semesters at both the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University already include a reading week.

Now, Tristan Smyth, a vice-president with the Students' Association of Mount Royal University, will meet with the institution's provost next week to lobby the mental-health benefits of adding three days off to an already condensed school week in the fall that begins with Remembrance Day.

"One of the key components of this idea is sort of giving that reprieve to everyone," Smyth said.

The move comes as Mount Royal has put student mental health under the spotlight, with a task force producing a 110-page report last year that suggested everything from launching a wellness-focused smartphone app, to improving the lighting in study spaces as potential initiatives that would benefit learners.

Smyth said the fall reading week would require approval from the general faculties council before going ahead and wouldn't come into effect until the 2015-16 school year at the earliest.

Here and there

The U of A Students' Union also went public this week with a pitch for a fall reading week on its Edmonton campus. Post-secondary schools in Ontario have recently approved such breaks and Calgary leaders said a "national conversation" has begun on the health benefits.

The University of Calgary Students' Union, meanwhile, is also mulling a fall reading week but it likely wouldn't come without sacrificing exam-writing days or moving the start of the semester up, said president Raphael Jacob.

Both his election platform and that of one of the union's vice-presidents included a push for a fall reading week, but it will be challenging to implement because U of C is required to offer a set number of instructional days on top of what is known as "block week."

Block week allows a student to complete an outstanding course in just five days by condensing all of the material and testing into hours similar to those of a full-time job.

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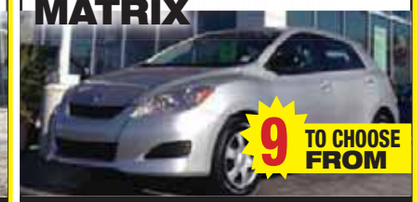

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Be careful

Parks Canada issues special avalanche warning

Parks officials are issuing a weekend warning about the potential for avalanches in the Rocky Mountains.

The warning, issued jointly by Parks Canada and Kananaskis Country Public Safety, is in effect from Friday to Monday and includes Banff, Yoho, Kootenay and Jasper national parks as well as Kananaskis Country.

"Although natural avalanche activity is tapering, conditions remain prime for human triggers," reads a release issued Thursday afternoon.

"Warm temperatures and sunny skies will attract many to the mountains this weekend and these same weather factors will destabilize the snowpack during the heat of the day."

METRO

Alberta Health Services

Additional flu deaths reported

Two newly reported influenza deaths have been confirmed in the Calgary zone as of Thursday afternoon, according to Alberta Health Services officials.

Seven deaths have been recorded in the Calgary zone this season, with 606 confirmed cases of Influenza A recorded in the area as of Jan. 15. METRO

RCMP

Man wounded in shootout faces 36 charges

An Alberta man who was wounded in a shootout with RCMP faces 36 charges including four counts of attempted murder.

Michael Leslie Johnson of Vegreville is being held in custody pending a Jan. 27 court hearing.

RCMP say the 33-year-old continues to receive medical attention for his injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

East Village losing 'stigma,' gaining momentum: CMLC

'We've come a long way.' Major projects like 300-room Hilton are underway

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

New images released Thursday depict what the East Village will look like rather than what it might look like, say the people behind the major redevelopment just east of downtown.

"We've come a long way," said Michael Brown, CEO of the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC), the city-owned entity guiding the project. "Now we have momentum, and so we're going to let our momentum carry."

For the first time, a local development company has signed on with CMLC for a new residential project, Brown added.

Until now, all the developers have come from outside Calgary, which Brown said was largely due to lingering negative perceptions of the area's seedier past.

"There's so much stigma attached to East Village, we had to have that outside perspective," Brown said, adding that perceptions of the area are changing.

"Back in the early 2000s, I wouldn't walk through East Village; now I'm very comfortable walking through East Village," he said.

"There's no longer this perception that, if I go down there, bad things are going to happen."

Numerous cranes are in the air already and more are set to rise as major new projects get underway, like the 300-room Hilton hotel set to break ground in the spring.

"It's not that far out before you'll start seeing buildings built," he added, noting the first phases of the Bosa and Fram condo developments are due to come online in 2015.

To date, CMLC has attracted $1.7 billion in investments from its development partners, said chairman Lyle Edwards

"All of this since 2009," Edwards said. "We've accomplished a lot in those four years."

Even CEOs go there now

"Back in the early 2000s, I wouldn't walk through East Village; now I'm very comfortable."

Michael Brown, CEO of the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation

Watch East Village rise

To see a video rendering of the projects set to take place in the coming months and years, visit metronews.ca.

What else to expect from East Village in 2014:

- The sale of a parcel of land for a new apartment complex, the site's first rental-property development.
- Encapsulation of the LRT tracks, which will pass under the New Central Library, the design of which will be revealed in the fall.
- The grand opening of the new St. Patrick's Island Bridge in the fall

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This updated rendering is one of several new images of the vision for East Village the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) released Thursday. CONTRIBUTED

Shattered windows. Calgary teens charged in alleged vandalism spree

At least two dozen southeast homeowners awoke last week to find their car windows shattered, police said Thursday in announcing charges.

A Cranston resident called 911 on Jan. 10 after hearing a "loud bang" about 3 a.m. The homeowner reported seeing a young man wielding a baton-like object while hanging outside the passenger window of an SUV. Police allege the suspects whacked the car and sped off. Cst. Colin Adair said it appears they're dealing with joyriders.

"The motivation as far as we're concerned, or our understanding at this point, is simply entertainment," Adair told reporters.

Responding officers spotted several vehicles with damaged driver-side mirrors. Investigators later found a string of similar offences in the McKenzie Lake area.

Police said they believe the incidents are related.

It's alleged the passenger did most of the damage, although investigators say it's possible the driver pulled over to participate.

Adair said the crime wasn't unusual, but the scope of the damage isn't something that "occurs too often."

Information is still rolling in and he didn't rule out the possibility of more victims coming forward. Police estimate at least $500 worth of damage was done to each vehicle. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Details

Two 16-year-olds have each been charged with 25 counts of property damage under $5,000, as well as one count each of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

- They will appear in court on Feb. 21.

Indian police say gang-rape suspects identified

Indian police said Thursday that they were closing in on five homeless men in the gang-rape of a 51-year-old Danish tourist in New Delhi, a case that highlights the plague of sexual violence in the country and threatens to tarnish its tourism industry.

Three other suspects were earlier picked up and accused of taking part in Tuesday's attack, which lasted nearly three hours and happened near Connaught Place, a popular shopping area in the heart of New Delhi, police spokesman Rajan Bhagat said.

"We have identified the culprits. All of them are vagabonds," a police official said

Tourism figures fell significantly in the three months following the 2012 fatal gang-rape of a young Indian woman — a case that caused public outrage — with visits by women dropping 35 per cent, according to the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India.

Police said the Danish tourist was raped at knifepoint Tuesday after she approached a group of men for directions back to her hotel. Instead of helping her, the men lured her to a secluded spot and raped her repeatedly, according to police. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violence continues

Violence against women in India has caused increasing alarm since the fatal gang-rape of a 23-year-old Indian physiotherapy student in New Delhi in December 2012.

- Several foreign tourists also have been targeted in attacks that have received international attention, although Indian women are assaulted far more frequently.

Natural disaster

USDA responds to drought concerns

Federal officials have designated portions of 11 drought-ridden western and central states as primary natural disaster areas, highlighting the financial strain the lack of rain is likely to bring to farmers in those regions.

The announcement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture means eligible farmers can qualify for low-interest emergency loans from the USDA. While storms have pelted the East, droughts are persisting or intensifying in the West. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newtown tragedy

Shooter called radio show

The man who carried out the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in Newtown apparently called a radio station a year earlier to discuss the 2009 mauling of a Connecticut woman by a chimpanzee.

The caller believed to be Adam Lanza speaks softly on a show on the University of Oregon's campus radio station and blames "civilization" for the animal's attack.

Lanza killed 20 children and six adults at the school in Newtown on Dec. 14, 2012. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria

Court sentences gay man to lashes

A young man convicted of sodomy was whipped 20 times Thursday in a northern Nigerian Shariah court.

Though Mubarak Ibrahim was found guilty under Shariah law, it is the first conviction of a gay man in Nigeria since President Goodluck Jonathan signed a bill that further criminalizes homosexuality under the West African nation's Western-style penal code.

The 20 lashes were administered in the public court. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Col. Jamila Bayaz at her office in Kabul, Afghanistan. MASSOUD HOSSAINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Female police chief a first in Afghanistan

Top cop. Says she's ready to serve, despite danger of being a possible Taliban target

She wears a black headscarf instead of a cap. But otherwise Col. Jamila Bayaz looks like any other district police chief in Afghanistan as she reviews checkpoints in the centre of Kabul.

Quoted

"There are difficulties, but I will continue."

Col. Jamila Bayaz, Afghanistan's first female district police chief

Bayaz, 50, is the first woman to be promoted to run an entire district — the highest front-line appointment for an Afghan policewoman. With just two days on the job, she said she feels up to the challenge despite the threat, as policewomen are among the Taliban's top targets.

"I work day and night," she said as she walked through a money exchange bazaar that lies at the heart of Kabul's District 1. "I am ready to serve; I am not scared, nor am I afraid."

Afghan policewomen are frequently threatened and targeted by the insurgents and several have been killed in the past few years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. hotels. Death spurs probe into 911 dialling

A Texas grandfather's initiative to allow hotel guests to dial 911 without having to press 9 first — spurred by his granddaughter's inability to call for help when her mother was stabbed to death — has prompted a U.S. federal official to reach out to major hotels.

The story of Hank Hunt and his nine-year-old granddaughter motivated Federal Communications Commission member Ajit Pai to send letters to 10 American hotel chains, asking whether guests dialling 911 are directly connected to an emergency call centre or a hotel employee. The letters also ask for the number of hotels in which someone dialling just 911 would not complete the call, and what plan the chain had to resolve that issue.

The letter from Pai requests a response by Feb. 14, though hotels are not required to respond.

Background

- Kari Dunn had taken her three children to visit her estranged husband at an inn in Marshall, Tex., the night in December when she was killed.
- Authorities say Brad Dunn dragged her into a bathroom and stabbed her to death.
- Her daughter tried to dial 911 four times, but didn't know to press 9 first and got no response. A guest in a nearby room eventually called for help.

Pai told The Associated Press that he wanted to know more about the scope of the potential problem before recommending action. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV. Stars, Republicans tapped for climate show

Producers of a Showtime series on global warming due this spring said Thursday it was crucial to get celebrities and Republicans involved to spread the stories beyond people who already believe it's an important issue.

The series, Years of Living Dangerously, begins April 13.

Former Republican governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger is among the celebrities who travel to different sites to illustrate the impact of climate change. Matt Damon, Jessica Alba and Don Cheadle also participate.

"We want to break down the tribalism on this issue," said David Gelber, who is helping make the series. "You ask people what they think about climate change and they say, 'I don't like Al Gore.'"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At-risk turtles overwhelming Indonesian sanctuary

A green turtle is seen at the bottom of the sea in the waters off Derawan Island, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Green sea turtles remain a rare sight in many parts of the world, but the Indonesian island tasked with protecting them is now being overrun by far too many. New research suggests that the gentle endangered creatures are crowding into a marine reserve in numbers never recorded anywhere, gobbling seagrass to the point that they risk destroying the food source that's vital to their survival. MARJOLIJN CHRISTIANEN/UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prolonged execution for condemned killer

Ohio. Untested drug combo takes more than 15 minutes to do its job after lethal injection

A condemned killer appeared to gasp several times and took more than 15 minutes to die Thursday as he was executed with a combination of drugs never before tried in the U.S.

Dennis McGuire was still for almost five minutes, then emitted a loud snort, as if snoring, and continued to make that sound over the next several minutes. He opened and shut his mouth several times without making a sound as his stomach rose and fell.

"Oh my God," his daughter, Amber McGuire, said as she observed her father's final moments in Lucasville, Ohio. His adult children sobbed in a witness room as they watched him die.

In trying to stop his execution, McGuire's lawyers had argued that he was at substantial risk of a medical phenomenon known as air hunger, which would cause him to experience terror as he strains to catch his breath.

McGuire, 53, was sentenced to die for the 1989 rape and fatal stabbing of a young pregnant woman, Joy Stewart. He acknowledged that he was responsible in a letter to Gov. John Kasich last month.

The never-tried lethal injection method was adopted after the maker of the state's previous drug put it off limits for capital punishment.

Federal public defender Allen Bohnert called McGuire's death "a failed, agonizing experiment by the state of Ohio."

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Workers swept off roof at Sochi venue

SOCOG staff members dig in the snow on Thursday after six workers were swept off a roof at the bobsleigh centre in Sochi, Russia, when the snow they were clearing slid to the ground. Associated Press technicians who saw the fall said one man appeared to have injured a leg and was taken away on a stretcher, while others sustained minor injuries. The men were clearing snow at the Sanki Sliding Center, venue for the bobsled and luge events. JOE PAYNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supplies allowed on Syrian front lines

Goodwill gesture?
Government's decision may be related to upcoming peace talks

The Syrian government allowed supplies to enter two contested front-line areas near the capital, a relief official said Thursday. Activists said the death toll from two weeks of infighting in the north between rebel forces and an al-Qaida-linked group climbed to more than 1,000 people.

The head of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Khaled Iriqsousi, told The Associated Press that enough supplies to feed 10,000 people for a month entered the Damascus suburbs of al-Ghezlaniya and Jdaidet al-Shibani on Thursday.

The government's decision to permit the supplies to enter appeared to be a goodwill gesture on its part as well as an attempt to present itself as a responsible partner ahead of a peace conference scheduled to open next week in Switzerland. It was not clear whether the move was part of an arrangement agreed to by Damascus and the main Western-backed opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, to allow humanitarian aid into some blocked-off areas.

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Fifty-year-old Karel Slinger, participant in a pilot project for alcoholics that offers to fund their drinking rather than try to cure them, pauses for beer at the clubhouse in Amsterdam, Wednesday. PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Problem with alcoholics? Get them to work for beer

Tough job. Participants paid in beer for light work collecting litter and eating a meal

The men streaming in and out of a small clubhouse in east Amsterdam could almost be construction workers at the end of a hard day, cracking jokes as they down a few Heinekens, waiting for their paycheques. But it's only noon, the men are alcoholics and the beers are the paycheque.

In a pilot project that has drawn attention in the Netherlands and around the world, the city has teamed up with a charity organization in hopes of improving the neighbourhood and possibly improving life for the alcoholics. Not by trying to get them to stop drinking, but instead by offering to fund their habit outright.

The men — two groups of 10 — must show up at 9 a.m., three days a week. They start off with two beers, work a morning shift, eat lunch, get two more beers, and then do an afternoon shift before closing out with their last beer. Sometimes there's a bonus beer. Total daily pay package: 19 euros (about $28), in beer, tobacco, a meal, and 10 euros cash.

Gerrie Holterman, leader of the small non-profit Rainbow Group Foundation that runs the program, conceded there has only been one individual so far who has moved from the program to regular life. Numerous participants have found the rules too demanding and dropped out. But she said nuisance in the park has been reduced, neighbours are happy and there's a waiting list of candidates who want to participate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The problem

For years, around 50 rowdy, aging alcoholics had plagued a park in east Amsterdam, annoying other park-goers with noise, litter and occasional harassment.

- The city had tried many hard-handed solutions, spending 1 million euros (about $1.5 million) a year on prevention, treatment and policing programs to deal with the problem, but nobody was satisfied.

Hollande's alleged lover sues magazine

The actress suspected of having an affair with French President Francois Hollande has filed a lawsuit against a gossip magazine for alleged invasion of privacy over its report.

A representative of Closer magazine says the publication received legal documents Thursday from Julie Gayet and her lawyers. The lawsuit seeks 54,000 euros (about $80,000) in damages and other fees, plus the publication of a summary of any judicial ruling on its front page.

Rumours have long circulated that the French president might have a lover. Closer published images Friday showing his bodyguard and a helmeted man it says is Hollande visiting what it says is Gayet's apartment.

Hollande has been living with Valerie Trierweiler, a journalist, since he split with the mother of his four children in 2007.

Trierweiler is viewed as the reason that Hollande split from longtime partner Segolene Royal. The couple separated just after Royal lost her bid for the presidency in 2007, but it later emerged Hollande had been having an affair with Trierweiler during the campaign. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French actress Julie Gayet
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Chavez's legacy lives on in survival of rare dog breed

Mucuchies. Venezuela's former president saved breed, connected to his hero, from extinction

The Soviets made space dog Laika a national hero, and Americans have fallen for presidential pets from Checkers to Bo. In Venezuela, a rare breed of shaggy sheepdog has come to symbolize the legacy of the late Hugo Chavez.

Venezuela's former president rescued the mucuchies, named for the Andean town where the breed originated 400 years ago, from near-extinction in 2008 by providing funding to breed the remaining 23 purebreds, and he used to delight in recalling how one fought at the side of his idol, 19th century independence hero Simon Bolivar.

Legend has it that in 1813 Bolivar's army was approaching a farm in the village of Mucuchies when they were stopped by a giant, barking guard dog. Weapons drawn, the rebels were about to kill the dog when Bolivar, marveling at its beauty and bravery, ordered them to back down.

The pup was named Nevado, or Snowy, for its white coat resembling the Andes peaks, and was given to Bolivar by the farm's owner. The two became inseparable, except when Nevado was briefly nabbed in a bid to entrap South America's Liberator.

The dog died in the final battle of Venezuela's independence war in 1821. Although honoured by a statue in Mucuchies, the dog had largely faded from memory.

"Every time Chavez hosted a foreign leader the president's office would call me up and make sure I brought the dogs," said Walter Demendoza, president of the Nevado Foundation, which works to rescue the breed. "He wanted the dog to be known around the world as a symbol of our country."

Chavez died from cancer last March, but interest in the dog surged after ally Argentine President Cristina Fernandez reappeared in public in November after surgery doting on a fluffy pup given to her by Chavez's brother.

Overnight, the dog Simon, named after Bolivar, became a social-media sensation. This month, Chavez's successor, Nicolas Maduro, named a government campaign to rescue street dogs in honour of the The Liberator's best friend.

Thanks to Chavez's efforts, there are now almost 200 purebred mucuchies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this 2003 photo, President Hugo Chavez holds a mucuchies pup during his show Hello President in Mucuchies, Venezuela. MIRAFLORES PRESS OFFICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Nunavut

Inquest called over record suicide year

Nunavut's chief coroner is calling a special inquiry in response to a record number of suicides in the territory last year.

Padma Suramala says 45 people killed themselves in 2013, making Nunavut's suicide rate 13 and a half times higher than the national average — a figure she calls terribly disheartening. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal policy

Trudeau wary of legal prostitution

Justin Trudeau isn't endorsing a proposal to legalize prostitution, saying it's one of many resolutions to be debated at the party's national policy convention in Montreal next month.

Trudeau says he looks forward to the debate, but appears to be signalling his own views against legalization, arguing prostitution is a form of violence against women. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cybercrime

RCMP boss: Feds not doing enough

The RCMP commissioner has warned Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney the government must do more to fight cybercrime.

In a letter, commissioner Bob Paulson argues the government needs to focus more on providing the public with information and strengthening law-enforcement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg

Woman stabbed by car thief: Police

A Winnipeg woman and her child weren't seriously hurt after a thief stabbed the woman and stole her vehicle Wednesday.

Police said while the woman, 30, was clearing snow off her car, a man demanded her keys. She refused, so the man stabbed her leg and took her keys. The woman managed to get her child out of the vehicle before the thief drove off. METRO IN WINNIPEG

Trudeau admits $840 in bad expense claims

Administrative errors?
Expenses were incurred while Liberal leader was working as paid public speaker; he says money has been fully repaid

In the midst of the Senate expenses scandal, Justin Trudeau has fessed up to some expense claim transgressions of his own.

The Liberal leader disclosed Thursday that he wrongly claimed $840 in MP travel and living expenses incurred while he was actually moonlighting as a paid public speaker.

He called them administrative errors and said he fully repaid the money as soon as he was made aware of the problem.

Conservative and NDP rivals pounced on the admission, accusing Trudeau of being little better than the senators who are under RCMP investigation for making allegedly fraudulent expense claims.

But Trudeau insisted his public disclosure and swift action to remedy the mistake shows he's setting a new standard of transparency.

"I am now explaining that to Canadians because one of the most important things about my approach in politics has been creating a level of accountability, of transparency, of openness, of honesty that means admitting when mistakes were made, taking responsibility for them and fixing them in an open manner that hopefully will continue to restore Canadians' trust in our political system," he said during an appearance with a provincial Liberal byelection candidate in Thornhill, Ont. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau greets people after introducing Liberal byelection candidate Sandra Yeung Racco in Thornhill, Ont., on Thursday.
NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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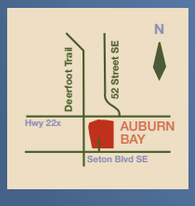

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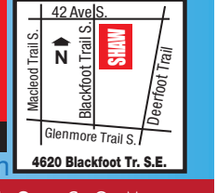

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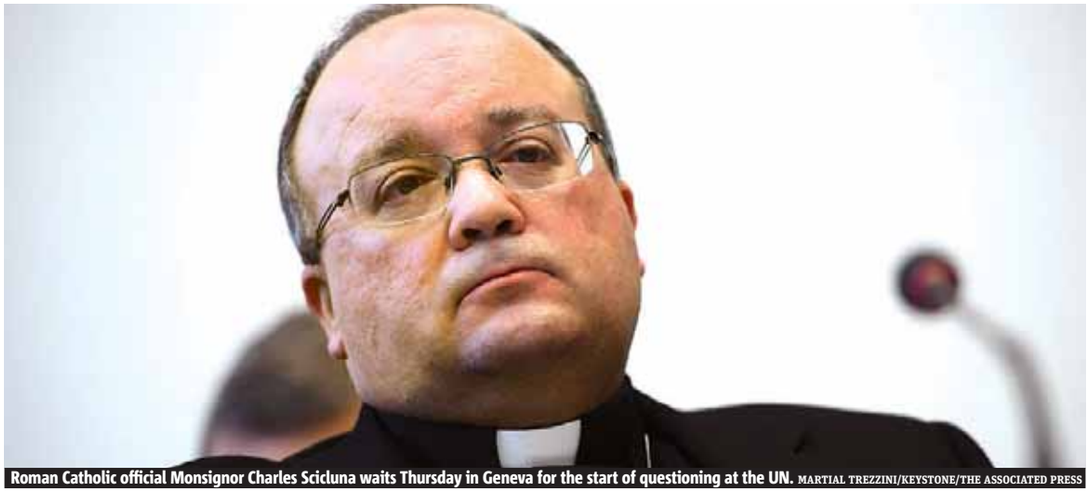
Vatican grilled by UN on child sex abuse scandal

'The Holy See gets it'. Church's former sex crimes prosecutor says there are 'things that need to be done differently'



Roman Catholic official Monsignor Charles Scicluna waits Thursday in Geneva for the start of questioning at the UN. MARTIAL TREZZINI/KEYSTONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Vatican came under blistering criticism from a UN committee Thursday for its handling of the global priest sex-abuse scandal, facing its most intense public grilling to date over allegations that it protected pedophile priests at the expense of victims.

The Vatican insisted it had little jurisdiction to sanction pedophile priests around the globe, saying it was for local law enforcement to do so. But officials conceded that more needs to be done and promised to build on progress already made to become a model for others, given the scale of the problem and the role the Holy See plays in the international community.

"The Holy See gets it," Monsignor Charles Scicluna, the Vatican's former sex crimes prosecutor, told the committee. "There are certain things that need to be done differently." He was responding to the UN committee over the Holy See's failure to abide by terms of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain, U.S., Australia

Live webcam child abuse ring busted

Child abuse investigators in the U.S., Britain and Australia have dismantled an organized crime group that streamed live webcam footage of child sexual abuse from the Philippines for paying viewers around the world.

An international investigation broke up the ring, which abused impoverished children as young as six, Britain's National Crime Agency said. Authorities made 29 arrests, including 11 people in the Philippines who had facilitated the crime, including members of the children's families.

Police describe the use of webcams to stream live child abuse — especially from developing countries — as a "significant and emerging threat."

The investigation began in 2012 after a routine police visit to a registered sex offender in Britain. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Court agrees to hear right-to-die appeal

Assisted suicide. Proponents argue the law is outdated and society's view of the issue has changed

The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to review the country's assisted-suicide laws more than two decades after it rejected doctor-assisted dying for people who are terminally ill.

The high court announced Thursday it will hear an appeal in a case that briefly overturned the ban on assisted suicide and offered a B.C. woman a constitutional exemption to get help in ending her life.

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association, which has argued on behalf of several ill people who said they wanted to die with dignity, hailed the decision.

In 2012, Justice Lynn Smith of the B.C. Supreme Court ruled the existing law was unconstitutional but delayed her ruling for a year to allow the federal government to rewrite the statute.

Smith also granted Gloria Taylor an exemption that would have allowed her to seek an assisted death. Taylor was terminally ill with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Arguing for the right to die with dignity

"Today we are savouring the knowledge that seriously ill Canadians are going to have the opportunity to make their plea to the court."

Lawyer Grace Pastine, who has argued Kay Carter's case for the B.C. Civil Liberties Association

The federal government appealed the B.C. Supreme Court decision, and the B.C. Court of Appeal overturned the ruling last October, concluding that the 1993 case that upheld the law was binding and that the lower court didn't have the ability to overturn the decision.

Taylor didn't use the constitutional exemption. She died of an infection in October 2012.

But the family of another woman, 89-year-old Kay Carter who went to Switzerland in January 2010 to end her life, is continuing the court fight with the help of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Keystone. Baird presses Americans for quick decision on pipeline

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird used a speech to a business audience on Thursday to press for a quick decision on the Keystone XL pipeline.

Speaking across the street from the White House, Baird said the Obama administration needs to decide soon.

He elaborated on a message he delivered yesterday on Capitol Hill, that decision time is here.

Baird told the U.S. Chamber of Commerce audience that prime construction weather is approaching and can't be wasted.

"If there's one message I'm going to be promoting on this trip, it's this: the time for Keystone is now. I'll go further — the time for a decision on Keystone is now, even if it's not the right one.

"We can't continue in this state of limbo."

Environmentalists have questioned the project and President Barack Obama has repeatedly put off a decision on the line. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians face trafficking charges in the Philippines

Arrested Canadian nationals James Clayton Riach, right, and Ali Memar Mortazavi Shirazi wait for their inquest proceeding at the Department of Justice in Manila, Philippines, on Thursday. The Anti-Organized and Transnational Crime Division of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said four Canadians, including Riach and Shirazi, were arrested Wednesday for allegedly trafficking illegal drugs from Mexico. The suspects are allegedly linked to a Mexican cartel and undercutting Chinese traffickers dominating the local market, which could trigger a drug war, NBI said. BULLIT MARQUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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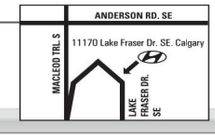

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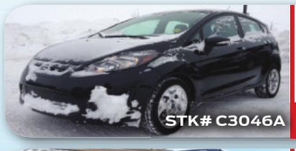

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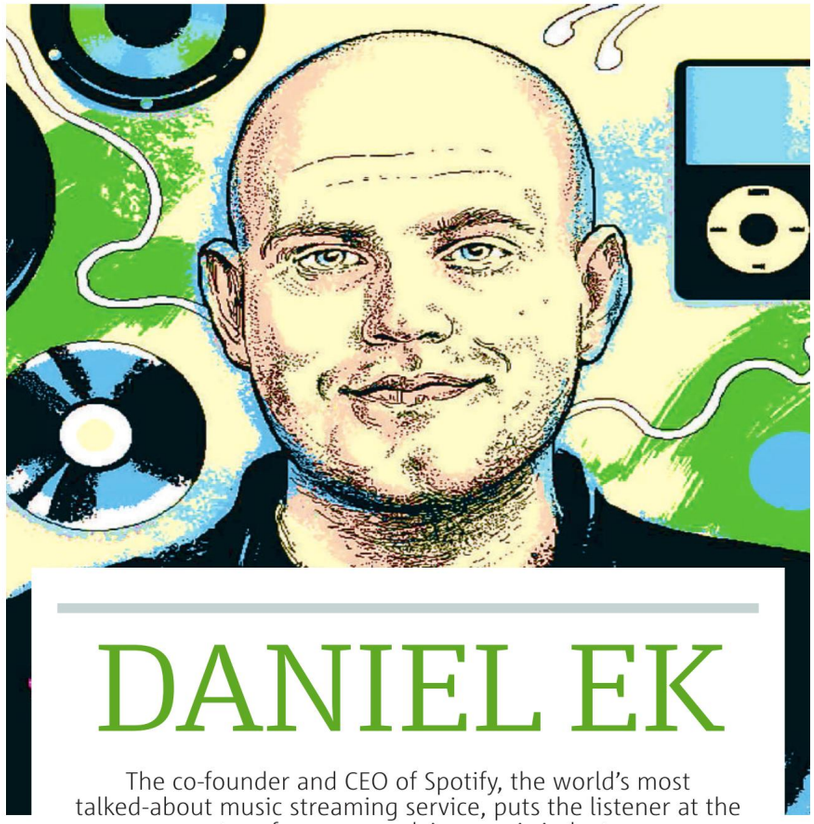

DANIEL EK

The co-founder and CEO of Spotify, the world's most talked-about music streaming service, puts the listener at the centre of an ever-evolving music industry.

YOU CAN BE THE KINGMAKER

Record labels are still not big fans of Spotify. Do you have sympathy for them?

I don't think there's a single record label that has a problem with us. They've worked with us for four to five years now, and I'm sure they wouldn't partner with us if they didn't like what we do. Right now we're their second-largest revenue generator after iTunes.

YouTube content boss Robert Kyncl's vision of his site is a talent factory for ordinary people. Do you want Spotify to go in the same direction?

We don't want to become creators of music. Record labels are great partners, and by the way, artists can also upload music to Spotify on their own. What we're focusing on is getting more music uploaded so that more people can enjoy it.

One of your staff members put an unknown singer named Lorde on Spotify's playlist, turning her into an instant star. Do you want to formalize this process of Spotify as a kingmaker?

Yes, we want to help artists, but we don't want to be kingmakers. What we're about is democratizing the music industry so that your friends are your kingmakers.

Where will the money come from (to run Spotify)? At the end of the day, all these users just want things for free...

I think customers will pay for quality. People are willing to pay more for an Apple product because they perceive it as being higher quality. METRO

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STOP ME IF YOU THINK THAT YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE

THE METRO LIST

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

It's a brand new year. But for those of you who think we're getting off to a fresh start, a clean slate and all that, this week's Metro List should disabuse you of that notion. Talk about déjà vu all over again:

1 **Meryl Streep gets nominated for an Oscar.** Get out! It makes the 18th time the World's Greatest Actor (registered trademark) is nominated for an acting Academy Award. They should retire her category or something. Sorry, no more best actress category. It's now the Meryl Streep wannabe category. And the winner is ... Jennifer Lawrence, who's already been nominated three times, has one Oscar and is still only 23.

2 **Overweight politician vows to stick it to his enemies.** No, it's not Rob Ford, but New Jersey Governor Chris Christie doing his best Rob Ford imitation, denying he had anything to do with shutting down traffic on a busy commuter bridge out of spite, and complaining that his enemies are on a political vendetta. Speaking of political, Christie's final Imitation of Ford is to stand in the smoking crater of his career and believe he can get his ample bottom elected something other than dog catcher.

3 **French president has affair.** Francoise Hollande is having an affair with actress Julie Gayet. The only difference between this affair and those of former presidents such as Nicolas Sarkozy (who left his wife for supermodel Carla Bruni) François Mitterrand (who kept a second family), and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, etc. is, er, nothing. Power is an aphrodisiac that transforms even the least favoured chef d'État. Oo-la-la. I've always wanted to write that.

4 **Rock star sticks his nose into Canadian environmental controversy.** Sir Paul McCartney took a moment with the baby seals in Newfoundland, posing with several admiring mammals on a convenient ice floe. Now Neil Young has decided to follow Macca's lead and has inserted himself into the national debate over the oilsands, the Keystone Gateway pipeline, and whatever. This is really nothing new for the iconic rock star, who's been protesting since he first picked up his guitar. Remember, he's the guy who inspired Sweet Home Alabama. Maybe somebody will write a rockin' song defending the oilsands. Maybe not.

5 **Royal couple visits Canada.** Charles and Camilla, that is. Like relatives who just can't stay away, The Prince of Wales and his Duchess will enjoy the nation's hospitality for four (more) days in May, visiting New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan, you lucky guys. They were just here in 2012. Governor General David Johnston made the announcement, adding, by way of discreet understatement, "Sharon and I are looking forward to seeing them once again, as they spend some time here in Canada." It is Charles' 17th visit, Camilla's third, so she has a lot of catching up to do.

ZOOM

'Pseudoscience' 'paints' 'a' 'picture'

COURTESY MICHAEL MAPES/ROOM62.COM

Portraits revived from 'specimens'

An artist has created collaged replicas of famous paintings using hundreds of tiny photographs, gelatin capsules, vials, sequins and insect pins.

Michael Mapes, from New York state, painstakingly put together the "artificial specimens" to reimagine works by Dutch masters Rembrandt and Nicolaes Eliasz Pickenoy. METRO

'Pseudoscience' at centre of artwork

By collecting and compartmentalizing dissected photos and contrived specimens, Mapes toys with the notion of a "pseudoscientific" approach to creating art.

The 51-year-old explains to Metro that "this pseudoscientific metaphor serves as a kind of lens through which my artistic expression can be experienced in a complex and unique way." METRO

By the numbers

6,000

insect pins are used to create Mapes's unique portraits.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Zuckerberg and co. are treading even closer to Twitter's toes this week with the addition of a Facebook trending bar. Personalized topics are gathered based on FB trends along with you and your pals' apparent likes/dislikes. Here's what you might want to know:

Ads: Unlike Twitter, FB spokespeople say trending topics can't be sponsored or promoted... for now.

One liners: Trending topics include a one-liner about the topic, giving a bit more context than the one-word trends of Twitter.

Private vs. public: While most people's Twitter feeds are public, FB users seem to keep their profiles on strict lockdown, which gives Twitter a leg up in figuring out what you're actually into. This means trends might be more closely linked to celebs and news outlets' likes and dislikes.

Comments

RE: Citizenship Changes Emphasize 'Speak White Ideology,' Report Finds, published online January 16

Having been through the citizenship process recently, I have to disagree with most of this think tank's findings.

The claim that applicants are tested on "economic self-sufficiency" is completely false. Moreover, barriers to citizenship are low, with only 3.6 per cent of citizenship applicants ultimately rejected. The most common reason for rejecting applicants is that they didn't live in Canada for the required three years.

The history section includes a lot about the waves of immigration that have shaped Canada, emphasizing the positive contribution of multiculturalism, pluralism, diversity and mutual respect. The overwhelming majority of applicants in my test session were non-white, and that seems to be quite normal.

The only reasonable point that the think tank makes relates to the processing delays. My application took 27 months, almost all of which involved my case file sitting in a pile waiting for someone to look at it. **Daniel Hassett, posted to metronews.ca**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: calgaryletters@metronews.ca

metro

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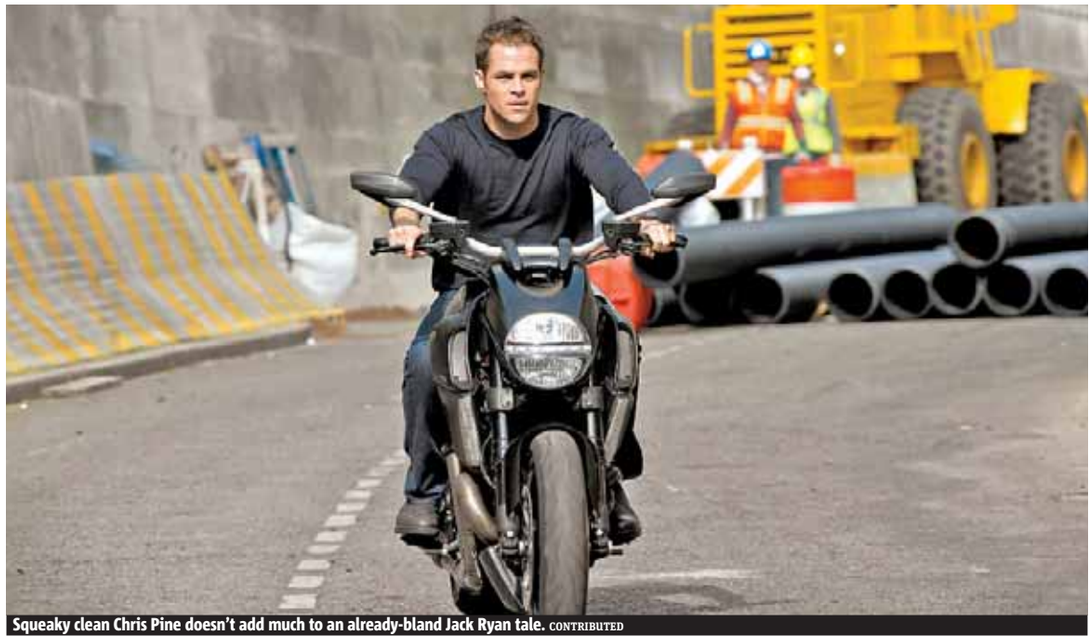
Synopsis

Ex-Marine Jack Ryan is back on screen after a 12-year break, but this time he looks like Captain Kirk. As played by Chris Pine (taking over from Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Ben Affleck), CIA field agent Ryan discovers evidence of an upcoming terrorist attack. Leaving his suspicious girlfriend (Kiera Knightley) behind, he is sent to Moscow to continue the investigation by Intelligence boss Agent Harper (Kevin Costner). Dodging bullets and bad guys, he encounters Viktor Cherevin (Kenneth Branagh), an evil businessman with a plot to destabilize the global economy. Steve Gow sits in for Mark Breslin this week.

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Steve: ●●○○○



Squeaky clean Chris Pine doesn't add much to an already-bland Jack Ryan tale. CONTRIBUTED

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Pretty dry for a film spy

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit. Chris Pine and a dull dialogue sink this Jack Ryan installment

Richard: Steve, Shadow Recruit is nothing fancy… and it's also nothing Clancy. As the first of the Ryan movies not based on a Tom Clancy novel, it feels quite generic. There is the usual intrigue and a couple of tense scenes, but what the movie doesn't have is the ear for dialogue of the other Ryan films. When you have a senior CIA agent muttering the line, "This is geopolitics, not couple's therapy," it's hard to know whether this is a satire of spy films or just badly written.

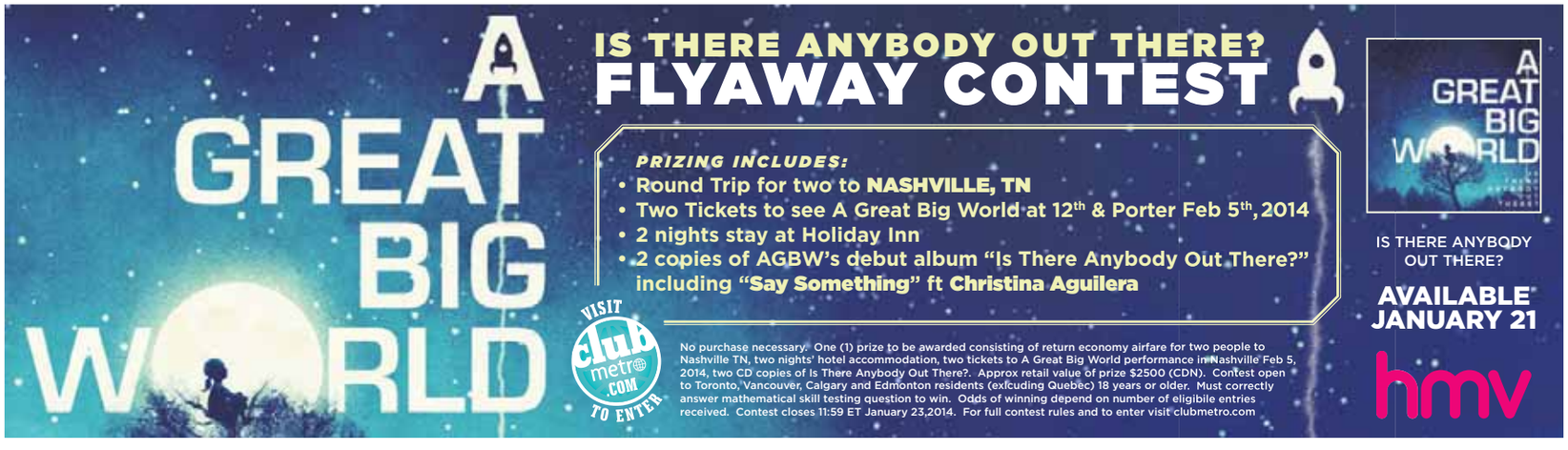
Steve: It certainly wasn't inspired writing, that's for sure. I get the feeling the genesis of this film came straight from a money-angling producer who somehow decided reviving a 12-year-old movie character like Jack Ryan would make better business sense than creative endeavour. The problem is, even if you look at the previous incarnations of the CIA operative — he's pretty indistinct. He's no James Bond. And vanilla Chris Pine doesn't add much to that blandness.

RC: True, but I really think that this is a case of a director with no affinity for the material. It's almost as if the movie was pieced together by people who had seen a lot of spy movies, but didn't really understand them. Add to that action scenes so frenetically edited it's often hard to see who is punching who through the flashes of light on the screen. A little clarity in those sequences would have gone a long way to make up for the ridiculous dialogue and underdeveloped characters.

SG: Absolutely. I had a hard time making sense of the action sequences since they were filmed with shaky handheld cameras in what seemed to be extreme close-up. Perhaps filmmaker Kenneth Branagh was focusing less on direction and more on playing the Russian antagonist in the film, which he does effectively enough in spite of the formulaic dialogue. Keira Knightly too, in the pretty unremarkable role of Ryan's unwitting operative wife, is fine — although I'm not sure what her attraction to the part was.

RC: Knightley was fine, but I thought Branagh played Cherevin with all the nuance of a Bond villain. He's ruthless, flamboyantly accented and super smart. Smart enough to bring down the global economy but not smart enough, apparently, to see through Chris Pine's terrible drunk act near the climax of the film.

Steve: True enough. And that probably exemplifies this film's biggest flaw. As much as the action is set at the pace of an overcaffeinated ferret, this thriller is pretty much boilerplate material with any subtle intricacies simplified for the sake of the neatly-capped plot. In the end, it's a pretty plain spy flick.



Oscar noms boast a northern touch

Canadian contenders. Quebec filmmaker's Dallas Buyers Club garners several nods

Will Butler of Arcade Fire scored an Oscar nomination for best original score for his work on Her. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jean-Marc Vallée's Dallas Buyers Club has nabbed a slew of Oscar nominations including best film, best actor, best supporting actor and best film editing for Montreal's Martin Pensa.

Pensa shares the nomination with John Mac McMurphy.

Quebec's Vallée was shut out of the best director category but his scrappy indie film about HIV-positive activist Ron Woodroof has vaulted him into the spotlight with prominent nominations ahead of the glitzy bash.

Dallas Buyers Club also earned nods for best original screenplay, and makeup and hairstyling.

Meanwhile, Canada's Owen Pallett and Arcade Fire member Will Butler scored a nomination for best original score for their work on Her. Pallett is a frequent collaborator with the Montreal-based band.

Her centres on a recently divorced writer played by Joaquin Phoenix who finds love with an artificial intelligence computer operating system known as Samantha, voiced by Scarlett Johansson.

Vallée said in a statement that the Oscar kudos were "a beautiful way" to conclude his adventure with Dallas Buyers Club, which stars an emaciated Matthew McConaughey as Woodroof and a slimmed-down Jared Leto as a drag queen.

Quoted

"My collaborators and I have had an amazing time making this film. Today we all share a collective sense of pride as we have had the opportunity to spotlight a part of history that's both beautiful and sometimes painful to remember."

Quebec filmmaker Jean-Marc Vallée on the making of Dallas Buyers Club

"My collaborators and I have had an amazing time making this film," Vallée said in a statement issued minutes after the nominations came out Thursday.

"Today we all share a collective sense of pride as we have had the opportunity to spotlight a part of history that's both beautiful and sometimes painful to remember, and been able to tell a story which has touched the hearts of many."

A biography for Pensa on the Focus Features website says he studied at the Los Angeles Film School and first collaborated with Vallée on Cafe de Flore.

He began his career as a child actor in Montreal, dubbing into French the performances of child actors including Macaulay Culkin and Elijah Wood for their films' Canadian releases.

Meanwhile, Toronto-based actress-turned-director Sarah Polley was shut out of the best documentary category. She had been considered a strong contender for her intensely personal documentary, Stories We Tell.

The film earned early critics' prizes including kudos from the New York Film Critics Circle and National Board of Review and a $100,000 prize from the Toronto Film Critics Association.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

And they're off!

American Hustle snagged 10 Oscar nominations on Thursday. CONTRIBUTED

Academy Awards.
American Hustle, Gravity get most nom love from Oscar

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

The Academy announced its nominations for the 2014 Oscars Thursday morning, with David O. Russell's American Hustle and Alfonso Cuarón's Gravity tying for the most nominations, earning 10 each, while Steve McQueen's 12 Years a Slave was right behind with nine. It's an incredibly crowded year, with nine films up for best picture, so voting for the final awards could go almost anyway, but we're predicting that the Hollywood Foreign Press got things almost exactly right with their major winners at the Golden Globes. We'll find out for sure on March 2.

Metro's predictions

Best picture: 12 Years a Slave

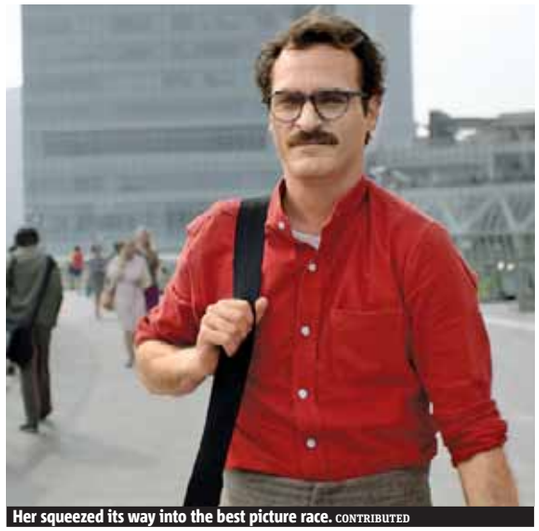
Best actor: Matthew McConaughey, Dallas Buyers Club

Best actress: Cate Blanchett, Blue Jasmine

Best supporting actor: Jared Leto, Dallas Buyers Club

Best supporting actress: Lupita Nyong'o, 12 Years a Slave

Best director: Alfonso Cuarón, Gravity



Her squeezed its way into the best picture race. CONTRIBUTED

Biggest winners

American Hustle has the biggest profile in the most major categories, making it the best contender for a sweep — though that seems incredibly unlikely this year. And Judi Dench has to be pleased to make it into the Best Actress race for underdog Philomena.

Biggest losers

Certain films didn't seem to connect at all with the Academy, the most surprising being the Coen Brothers' Inside Llewyn Davis, which only earned two nods, for cinematography and sound mixing. And Saving Mr. Banks, which had been considered a contender for nominations at least for Emma Thompson and Tom Hanks, will have to make due with a best original score nod. But the biggest snub seems to be for Lee Daniels' The Butler, which wasn't nominated for a single award. Sorry, Oprah.

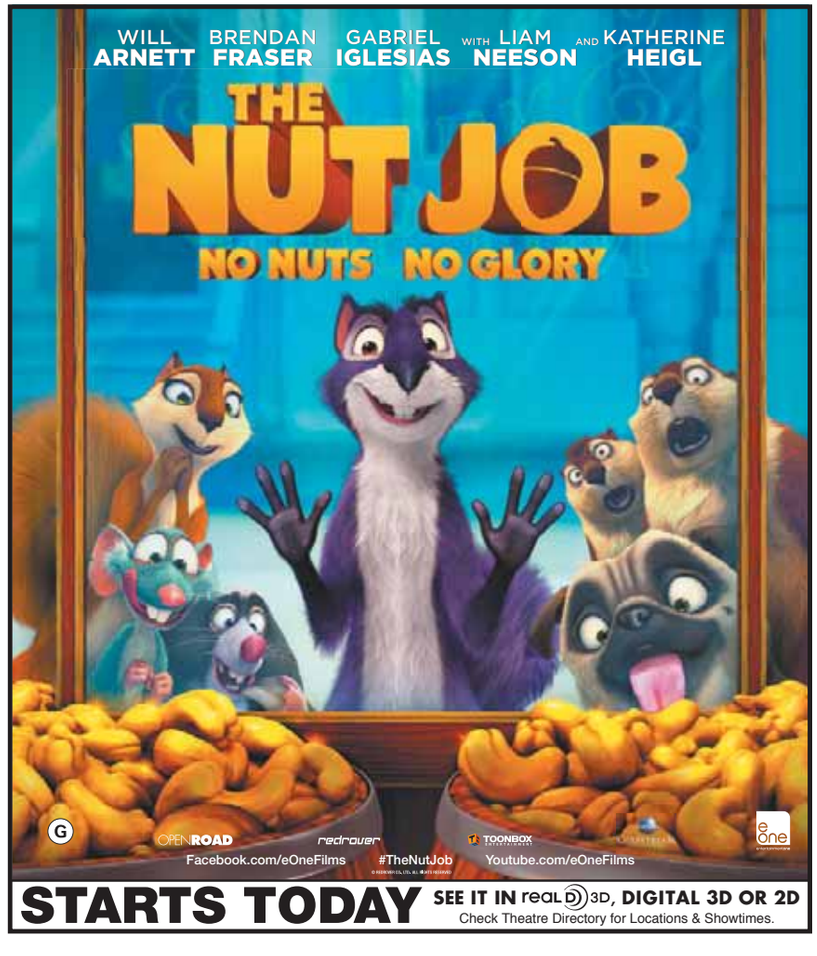
Biggest surprises

It's definitely a treat to see Spike Jonze's quiet and fantastic Her squeeze its way into the best picture race, as well as Philomena, though neither film has that great a chance of winning the top prize. Hopefully the Academy, like the HFPA earlier this week, will award Jonze for best original screenplay as a consolation. And not seeing Academy favorite Tom Hanks nominated for anything despite well-received roles in Captain Phillips and Saving Mr. Banks is certainly a surprise, though apparently the Academy needed to make room for Jonah Hill, whom they seem to really like.

Nominees

- **Best motion picture.** American Hustle, Captain Phillips, Dallas Buyers Club, Gravity, Her, Nebraska, Philomena, 12 Years a Slave, The Wolf of Wall Street
- **Best actor.** Christian Bale - American Hustle, Bruce Dern - Nebraska, Leonardo DiCaprio - the Wolf of Wall Street, Chiwetel Ejiofor - 12 Years A Slave, Matthew McConaughey - Dallas Buyers Club
- **Best actress.** Amy Adams - American Hustle, Cate Blanchett - Blue Jasmine, Sandra Bullock - Gravity, Judi Dench - Philomena, Meryl Streep - August: Osage County
- **Best director.** David O. Russell - American Hustle, Alfonso Cuarón - Gravity, Alexander Payne - Nebraska, Steve McQueen - 12 Years a Slave, Martin Scorsese - the Wolf of Wall Street

Inside Llewyn Davis only earned two nods. CONTRIBUTED



Family/Animated

The Nut Job

Director. Peter Lepeniotis

Stars. Will Arnett, Katherine Heigl

Paralleling the frenetic pace of its rodent star, The Nut Job certainly packs a lot of energy — even if the tale's slightly familiar. Based on his own short feature, Peter Lepeniotis's The Nut Job expands the story of a self-indulgent squirrel plotting the heist of a nut shop that hides its own conniving criminals. The comedy's cuddly forest creatures should surely win over the youngsters but an overactive storyline laced with predictable puns make The Nut Job mostly forgettable.

STEVE GOW

Comedy

Ride Along

Director. Tim Story

Stars. Ice Cube, Kevin Hart

Short, screechy Ben (Hart) wants to marry the sister of tough, lone-wolf police officer, James (Ice Cube). But to do so, he has to prove himself to James by riding along with him on the job. Mild amusement ensues while Ben tries to win some respect and help bag a bad guy. There's nothing particularly new, exciting or even that funny about Ride Along — and a film this formulaic really can't afford to be this dull.

REGAN REID

Big names and small projects

Sundance kickoff. Robert Redford's indie love-in attracts actors looking to flex their thespian chops

Joseph Gordon-Levitt debuted his first feature film (Don Jon) at Sundance last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

As Kristen Stewart, Elisabeth Moss and Joseph Gordon-Levitt have learned, the Sundance Film Festival in the mountains of Utah is the ideal destination to get away from it all and work on that career shift.

Robert Redford's two-week celebration of independent cinema kicked off its 30th year Thursday in Park City, Utah, with a lineup that includes 117 feature films. One of them is Camp X-Ray, in which Stewart plays against type as a Guantanamo Bay guard who befriends a prisoner.

Stewart, who was last at the festival in 2010 when she was promoting her role as Joan Jett in The Runaways, says Camp X-Ray was one of the rare scripts she'd read that made her want to work again after her two-year acting hiatus following the Twilight movies.

"At my age it's difficult to find stuff that isn't completely derivative," said the 23-year-old in a recent interview. "Most parts are imitating something else that was popular."

With Snow White and the Huntsman 2 coming in 2015, Stewart's big-budget franchise days are far from over. "But it's a little bit more difficult to create the environment that I thrive in on a bigger movie," she explains.

"I prefer doing smaller ones. They're quicker. I like intensive things and then I like to walk away."

For Gordon-Levitt, persistence has paid off. This will be his seventh consecutive year at Sundance and he'll be presenting the first three episodes of HitRecord on TV. It's the cable TV extension (airing on the Pivot network) of his HitRecord.org, a website dedicated to giving artists a platform to share and develop their work.

"HitRecord started at Sundance in 2005 in a way," says Gordon-Levitt. "But it was more of an informal hobby." Then, in 2010, it was launched at Sundance as an official production company.

Gordon-Levitt says the fest "feels like a home away from home," which made it the perfect place last year to debut his first feature film, the porn addiction tale Don Jon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"At my age it's difficult to find stuff that isn't completely derivative. Most parts are imitating something else that was popular."

Kristen Stewart on why she loves working on small, independent projects

YOUR HEALTH

President's own story: 15 years ago I started to have arthritis, prostate, kidney, snoring and sleep apnea problems, which were all helped quickly with natural health products. I made it my life's purpose to help others. *Nick A. Jerch*

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Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-6:50-9:35
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:30-7:25
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:45-7:30-10:05
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7-9:45
Free Birds (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:30
Grudge Match (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:40-7:05-9:45
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri-Thu 10
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:35-7:10-9:50
Lee Daniels' The Butler (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-8
Oldboy (18A) Fri-Thu 10
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:15-9:55

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American Hustle (14A) Fri 1-3:55-6:50-10 Sat 12:35-3:55-6:50-10 Sun 12:35-3:55-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 1-3:55-6:50-9:45
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Fri 1:45-4:35-7:35-10:20 Sat 11-1:45-4:45-7:35-10:20 Sun 12:15-4:45-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:35-7:20-10:10
Bolshoi Ballet: Jewels (STC) Sun 12:55
Devil's Due (14A) No Passes Fri 2:40-5:30-8:15-10:35 No Passes Sat 1:15-3:35-5:55-8:15-10:35 No Passes Sun 1:15-3:35-5:50-8:05-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 2:40-5:20-7:50-10:20
Frozen (G) Fri 2:10 Sat-Sun 12:05 Mon-Thu 2:10
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 5:20-7:55 Sat-Sun 2:45-5:20-7:55 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:40
The Golden Compass (PG) Sat 11
Her (14A) Fri 1:20-4:15-7:05-10:05 Sat 1:05-4:15-7:05-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:15-7:05-9:55 Mon-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:05-9:55
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4:55-8:40 Mon-Thu 4:55-8:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 2:30-6:40-9:50 Sat 12:15-3:25-6:40-9:50 Sun 3:25-6:30-9:40 Mon-Tue 2:30-6:30-9:40 Wed 2:30-9:40 Thu 2:30-6:30
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Thu 10
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) No Passes Fri 2-5-7:45-10:15 No Passes Sat 11:55-2:30-5-7:45-10:15 No Passes Sun 11:55-2:30-5-7:35-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 2-5-7:35-10:05
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:25 Sat 1:25-4:25-7:15-10:25 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:15-10 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:10-10
The Nut Job (G) Fri 2:20 Sat-Sun 12:45 Mon-Tue 2:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30 Thu 2:20
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri 5:10-7:25-9:45 Sat 3-5:10-7:25-9:45 Sun 3-5:10-7:20-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:25-9:35
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Fri 1:15-4:05-7-9:55 Sat 12:55-4:05-7-9:55 Sun 12:55-4:05-7-9:50 Mon-Tue 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:50 Wed 4:05-6:55-9:50 Thu 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) Fri-Sat 10:30 Sun 10:20 Mon-Thu 10:15
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 1:05-4:45-8:30 Sat-Sun 12:25-4:35-8:30 Mon-Thu 1:05-4:45-8:30

Eau Claire Market
200 Barlay Parade

American Hustle (14A) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30
August: Osage County (14A) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-7-10 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:10
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:40
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 6-8:50
Inside Llewyn Davis (14A) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:20
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 7:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-4-7:50 Mon-Thu 7:45

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American Hustle (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:10-3:20-6:40-10:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 3:20-6:40-10:15
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Wed 9:30
August: Osage County (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:20-9:20
Dedh Ishqiya (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:35-4:45-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:45-9
Devil's Due (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-3:50-7-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 3:50-7-10
Frozen (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4
Frozen 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-6:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45
Her (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:15-3:15-6:45-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:15-6:45-10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:55-7:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12-3:20-6:50-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:50-10:15
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 10
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 4:10-6:50-9:50
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit — The IMAX Experience (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:40-3:25-6:30-9:30 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 3:25-6:30-9:30
Lone Survivor (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:50-7-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-7-10:05
The Nut Job (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:10
The Nut Job 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:20-6:15-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:15-9
Ride Along (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:55-3:40-6:10-9:10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 3:40-6:10-9:10
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12-3-6:30-9:35 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3-6:30-9:35
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:30-9:35 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 3:40-6:30-9:35
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:10-4-8 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-8

Landmark Cinemas 10 Shawnessy & EXTRA Calgarytudio
100-16061 MacLeod Trail

American Hustle (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12-3:15-6:40-10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 12-3:15-6:40
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:30
August: Osage County (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:50-9:40
Frozen (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:15
Frozen 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-7:15
Her (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:10-3:20-6:20-9:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 3:20-6:20-9:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-4:30-8:15
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 10
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:20
Lone Survivor (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-7-10:10
The Nut Job (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:40
The Nut Job 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-6:30-9:20
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:50
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-4-8

Scotiabank Chinook
6455 MacLeod Trail

47 Ronin 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:30 Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10
American Hustle (14A) Fri 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:25 Sat 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:55 Sun-Wed 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:25 Thu 1-3:50-7:10-10:25
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:25-7:20-10:15 Sun 12:30-4:25-7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:25-7:20-10:15
August: Osage County (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:10
Bolshoi Ballet: Jewels (STC) Sun 12:55
Devil's Due (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:10-7:45-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:45-10:05
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:25 Mon-Thu 1:55
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Thu 5:05-7:45
The Golden Compass (PG) Sat 11
Her (14A) Fri-Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:35 Thu 12:50-4:30-7:30-10:35
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Sun 11:45 Mon-Thu 2
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:20-7-10:35 Mon-Thu 5:35-9:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12-3:25-6:50-10:15 Sat 3:15-6:50-10:15 Sun 3:25-6:50-10:15 Mon-Wed 2:45-6:30-10 Thu 2:10-10
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-2:05-4:40-7:20-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:40-3:45-6:50-9:40
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit — The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:50-2:35-5:20-8-10:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:35-4:10-7:25-10:15
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:45-7:50-10:45 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:50-10:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff - Encore (STC) Sat 10:55
The Nut Job (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri-Thu 5:15-7:35-9:55
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:15-5:40-8:15-10:45 Mon-Thu 1:15-3:40-7:05-9:50
Ride Along (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:50-2:30-5:15-8:10-10:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:25-4-7-9:45
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Fri-Thu 10:20
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) Fri-Wed 1:20-4:15-7:15-10:10 Thu 1-4:15-7:15-10:10
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Sun 2:40-6:30-10:20 Mon-Wed 1-5-9:20 Thu 2-5:40-9:20

Plaza Theatre
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Sat 4:30-9:15 Sun-Wed 9 Thu 9:15
Philomena (PG) Fri 7 Sat 12:30-2:30-7 Sun 4:45-7 Mon-Wed 7

Sunridge Spectrum
2555 32nd Street

47 Ronin 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:55
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:55-7:25-10:35 Mon 1:55-6:15-9:25 Tue 1:55-6:15-9:30 Wed 6:15-9:30 Thu 1:55-6:15-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:15
Devil's Due (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-3-5:20-7:40-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:25-3:45-7:40-10
Dhoom 3 (PG) Fri-Wed 9:45
Frozen (G) Fri-Thu 1:30
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:15-7 Mon-Thu 4:10-7
Girl, Boy, Bakla, Tomboy (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:25-6:35-9:15 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:15-9:50
The Golden Compass (PG) Sat 11
Her (14A) Fri-Sun 1:05-4:10-7:05-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:05-4:15-7:10-10:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Sat 11:55 Mon-Thu 1:05
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:25-6:55-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:40-8:15
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:45-5:15-8:35
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Thu 10
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:55-10:35 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:35-4:10-7:35-10:20 No Passes Wed 4:10-7:35-10:20 No Passes Thu 1:35-4:10-7:35-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:30-10:25
The Nut Job (G) Fri-Thu 1
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri-Thu 3:15-5:30-7:50-10:05
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (14A) Fri 12:50-3:20-5:35-8-10:20 Sat 3:20-5:35-8-10:20 Sun 12:50-3:20-5:35-8-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:05-7:25-9:40
Ride Along (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:45-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:10-3:55-7:45-10:15
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Sun 12:55-6-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:30-5:30-9:25

Westhills 10
165 Stewart Green

American Hustle (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-4-7:20-10:25 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:20
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:15 Mon 5:45 Tue-Thu 5:45-8:40
August: Osage County (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:40
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 5:20
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:15-6:30 Mon-Thu 7:50
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Sun 1 Mon-Thu 5
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4:30-9 Mon-Thu 8:25
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:45-7:05-10:20 Mon 8:35 Tue-Thu 5:15-8:35
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-7-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:25-8:30
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:45
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff - Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
The Nut Job (G) Fri-Sun 12:10 Mon-Thu 5:30
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:30-4:50-7:15-9:35 Mon-Thu 8:15
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Fri-Sun 9:50
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Sun 12-4:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 8

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Transgender actress hopes Brave New Girls will send message of acceptance

Jenna Talackova.
New Canadian reality TV series explores lives of 'regular girls trying to make it'

After taking on tycoon Donald Trump and becoming an advocate for equal rights as the first transgender Miss Universe Canada contestant in 2012, Jenna Talackova was swimming in offers promising fame.

"I was pitched many shows when I was in L.A.," the statuesque, six-foot-one blonde said in a recent interview. "My agent kept sending me down there and it just didn't align with my personality.

"Dating shows and all these kinds of things — it wasn't the message I was trying to give out to the world and so I lost a lot of confidence."

Transgender model and former Miss Universe Canada contestant Jenna Talackova, centre, with cast members Dajana Radovanovic, right, and Angela Perry star in the new television show Brave New Girls. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The 25-year-old did like one show idea — one in which she would train to become a Victoria's Secret model, a longtime goal of hers — but it didn't work out.

And then she met the producers of E's new original Canadian series Brave New Girls, which premieres Sunday at 10 p.m. EST.

Talackova said she wanted to star in the reality series because it's Canadian and offered the chance to move from Vancouver to Toronto to pursue her dreams of modelling and acting.

Quoted

"What a person doesn't understand they usually become scared of ... I've got to realize that by telling my story, exposing my life, that I'm making it socially acceptable for all the younger women, transgendered women, out there."
Jenna Talackova

"I just hope I make it more socially acceptable for anybody that's different from society's kind of person," said Talackova, who decided to fully transition into a woman at age 14 and had sex reassignment surgery at age 19.

"So I hope this show sends that message — to accept people for who they are."

The show also stars Talackova's friend Dajana Radovanovic, a model who's finishing her criminology degree and wants Talackova to focus on her goals. Also featured is her more free-wheeling cousin Angela Perry, who wants her to loosen up.

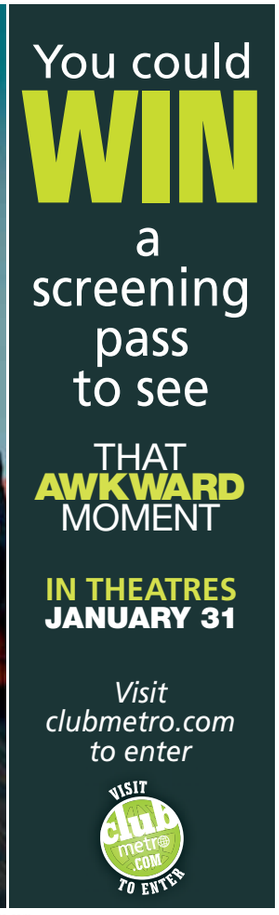
Perry wanted to be on the show to support what she felt was a positive message and "a way to promote understanding and acceptance."

"We're not in medieval times anymore," she said.

Radovanovic felt it was "an amazing platform" for young women and people from all walks of life.

"Just to see Jenna living a regular life like everybody else, that's probably the main message, and just to see that we're all just regular girls trying to make it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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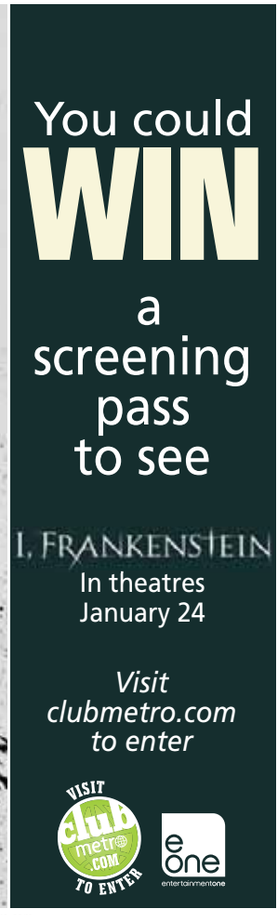

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Breaking the silence of the drug science

Hey, don't look at us, — we didn't mean to inspire any drug dealers. We're just Aaron Paul and Bryan Cranston from the hit show Breaking Bad. AMC

Meth recipe. You can't make Walter's famous 99 per cent pure just based on what's shown onscreen — still, one chemist is impressed

SCOTT FOX
Metro World News

If you're still missing out on the hit TV series Breaking Bad, why not pay your own tribute by manufacturing some 99 per cent pure using the onscreen recipes? Not so fast, says electrochemist Dr. Falk Harnisch of the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Germany, who has examined the chemistry used by Walt, Jesse et al.

What is the most impressive science on the show?

In general, the chemistry is depicted very well and close to reality in Breaking Bad. This is in clear contrast to other shows like, for example, CSI. My favourite, as an electrochemist, is the makeshift battery Walter builds in the desert to restart the engine of the RV.

What efforts have been made on the show to avoid inspiring drug dealers?

The best example is that the crystal synthesis is shown very realistically, but important details are not discussed. It is not entirely clear which sources Jesse gets certain ingredients for the new synthesis from (e.g. thorium oxide catalyst). Mercury aluminium amalgam can be used as a catalyst for the reduction, as discussed by Walter and Jesse, but only shows how aluminium granulate is added to the reactor. Further the synthesis is shown in a visually appealing manner, but details like temperature-time regimes, concentrations, and stirring are not considered. Yet all these details are essential for a successful synthesis.

What can the show's impact be for chemistry and science?

I strongly hope that the show will provide the public a more realistic picture on what chemistry can do and how chemists work. Maybe it will also inspire young people in choosing chemistry and other natural sciences as a job opportunity.

Do you believe professional chemists can improve illegal drug markets?

We have no practical or personal experience in the drug business. However, from the health perspective it should be preferable to have pure substances. This could be achieved for some drugs in general by a legally controlled drug delivery, where quality standards also have to be obeyed. Yet, as far as I know the effects of crystal meth are so severe that legalizing is certainly no option.

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Mind the App

Crackle gets Comedians in Cars

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

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Free

Crackle's streaming catalogue of free but often unfamiliar movies and shows gets a boost with Jerry Seinfeld's Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee. The app works great, just needed fresh content.

Video game review

Name. The Wolf Among Us

For. Xbox Live/PSN/PC/Mac/iPad/iPhone

Rated. Mature 17+

Solving fairy tale murders may not seem like serious business, but set against the gritty streets of New York where Prince Charming and company have sacrificed their Ever After lives for ones of dysfunction and mistrust, it gets real. As Bad Wolf detective Bigby, your decisions and behaviour affect others with the episodic story and evidence changing noticeably in response. You interrogate foul-mouthed frogs, have throw-down fights with rage-aholics, and commiserate with Snow White. It doesn't feel like you're getting anywhere in Episode One, but it sure is entertaining. **KRIS ABEL**

Swamp songs, cosmic rays and the DPRK

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

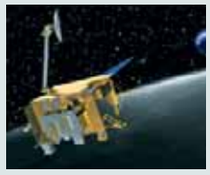
Three pieces of music you've just got to hear

A Lizard State/ King Krule

A swampy, True Blood (and mildly NSFW) sort of song. Very cool, Mr. Hitchcock (you'll see what I mean).

Escape to North Korea/Pacman and Peson

Yes, *to* North Korea. These DC rappers dreamed of being the first outside act to film a music video in the DPRK. They did it. Your move, Mr. Rodman.



Random Cosmic Rays/CRaTER

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter has an on-board module that reads cosmic rays as music, which it then broadcasts to Earth in real time. If this is anything to go by, the universe is pretty blissed out. Take that, Mr. Eno.

Online spinoff

CW resurrects popular Veronica Mars series

The CW says it's developing an online spinoff of the Veronica Mars series.

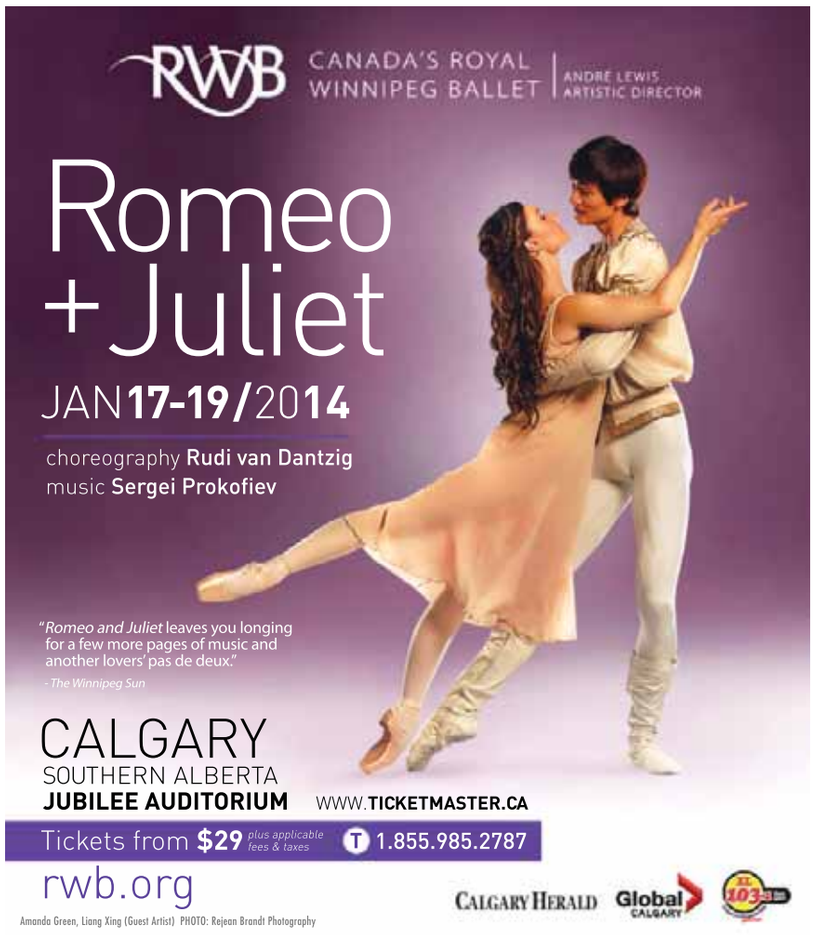
Series creator Rob Thomas has agreed to do the digital version, CW president Mark Pedowitz told a meeting of the Television Critics Association this week.

The decision to proceed with the spinoff was made Tuesday and details have yet to be worked out, including the cast and characters, the CW said.

Veronica Mars, which was cancelled in 2007 after three seasons, is enjoying a resurgence. A film based on the show about a crime-solving teen, played by Kristen Bell, was funded by the crowd-funding site Kickstarter. The movie is due out in March.

A debut date for the online spinoff was not announced.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



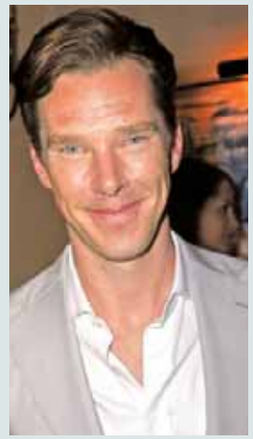
METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Benedict's sex appeal a mystery to Sherlock producers

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca



Are you surprised Benedict Cumberbatch is the hunk that Tumblr says he is? So are the producers of Sherlock, who hired him.

Sherlock showrunner Steven Moffat and producer Sue Vertue, who cast the thespian in the role, didn't believe he could be regarded as, well, sexy.

"When we first cast him, people were saying, 'You promised us a sexy one!'" remembers Vertue as part of this week's Entertainment Weekly cover story. "People weren't thinking of Benedict in that light at all."

His name also didn't help. "When people said, 'Who's playing Sherlock Holmes?' and we'd say, 'Benedict Cumberbatch,' everyone looked very vague," recalls Vertue. "Then we'd always have to spell his name."

Everyone had their doubts before the first episode aired. "For me, it is a winter show," says Cumberbatch. "It's not something you watch when you've got the dying light on the hottest day. So I was a bit despondent," he recalls.

But after the debut — and when he saw how quickly social media latched onto the BBC drama — Cumberbatch realized his life was going to change forever. "The immediate response was exciting," he says. "My name: trending, trending, trending. I didn't even know what 'trending' was before that night."

"After the first episode," added Vertue, "we never had to spell his name."

Nothing plastic about Michelle's women's lib message on her 50th

Michelle Obama turns 50 today, so People magazine asked her about plastic surgery. While the First Lady hasn't had any work done — and doesn't have plans for any — she's not taking the option off the table. "Women should have the freedom to do whatever they need to do to feel good about themselves," she says. "Right now, I don't imagine that I would go that route, but I've also learned to never say never."

Michelle Obama

Miranda Kerr and Orlando Bloom ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Orlando and Miranda's Bloom-ing friendship is the perfect break-up story

And the award for friendliest breakup goes to ... Miranda Kerr and Orlando Bloom. The pair called it quits last year and share custody of three-year-old son Flynn, and they've been spotted out and about being chummy plenty since the separation was announced. They even hit up the same Golden Globes after-party together last weekend. "We're good friends despite being separated," Kerr tells People magazine. "And we want the best for each other."

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Liquid Assets

Grape stuff by candlelight

LIQUID ASSETS
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Hunkering down indoors with family, food and a few bottles of wine has become a winter tradition in Canada.

While power outages may put a damper on your culinary ambitions, you can still explore new grape varieties by candlelight.

Spain's eclectic collection of berries is mostly indigenous. Though some aren't that easy to warm up to, garnacha (or grenache as it's known in France) meets most palates in the middle.

With a ripe, rounded fruit expression and, depending on the age of the vines, a bright, naturally berry sweet flavour, Spanish garnacha is a true bridge between the old and new wine worlds.

I predicted its 2014 popularity in a column earlier this month, and if you need confirmation, fill your mouth with Bodegas San Alejandro's 2010 Las Rocas Garnacha ($14.99 - $19.90).

Made in the Calatayud region in the province of Zaragoza's southwestern corner, its soothing, black-fruited body cruises to a finish of dark spice, tannin and subtle oak. Try with seasonal dishes like stew and meaty chili — if you have electricity.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

This recipe makes 12 rolls. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Take fresh spring rolls in a fowl direction

Appetizer. Typically made with shrimp and vegetables, this version adds chicken

When paired with crunchy jicama, carrots and cucumber, the chicken shines as a spring roll filling.

Ingredients

Dipping sauce
- 1/4 cup each smooth natural peanut butter and apricot jam
- 2 tbsp each soy sauce and rice or cider vinegar
- Hot sauce, to taste

Spring rolls
- 2 oz dried bean or rice thread noodles
- 1/2 English cucumber, peeled and halved lengthwise
- 4-oz peeled jicama root
- 12 large rice-paper wrappers (8-inch round or larger)
- 1/2 cup shredded carrots
- 2 avocados, pitted and thinly sliced
- 1 lb cooked boneless, skinless chicken breast meat, pulled or cut into strips
- 12 large fresh mint leaves

1. Dipping sauce: In bowl stir together peanut butter, jam, soy sauce and vinegar. Season with hot sauce, then set aside.

2. Place noodles in bowl. Cover with hot water. Soak 5 minutes, or until softened. Drain in mesh strainer; set aside.

3. Use spoon to scrape out and discard the seeds from cucumber halves. Cut each piece into thin strips. Set aside. Cut jicama into thin slices, then cut each slice into thin matchsticks.

4. Fill bowl (at least several inches larger than the rice wrappers) with warm water. Soak 1 wrapper until just barely softened, 10 seconds. Carefully remove the rice wrapper from the water and lay flat on the counter. Place a small bundle of noodles along one edge of the wrapper. Top the noodles with a bit each of cucumber, jicama, carrots, avocado and chicken, then top with a mint leaf.

5. Roll the wrapper, starting with the filling side, folding the ends over the fillings as you roll to form a tight cylinder. Repeat with the remaining wrappers and fillings. Serve with the dipping sauce. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Chamber choir

The new professional chamber choir of Calgary presents their second concert of the year. Titled Spem In Alium, which means 'Hope In Any Other' in Latin, is a 40-voice Renaissance piece that was composed more than 500 years ago. Sit back and experience the true meaning of surround sound as 40 choir members bring the concert space to life. It is considered a rare opportunity to see a performance of this sort. Spem In Alium will take place at Cathedral Church of the Redeemer, 218 7 Ave. SE on Jan. 19 at 7.30 p.m. luminousvoices.ca.

The Big Lebowski

On Friday, the Fifth Reel presents a screening of the ultra-cult classic The Big Lebowski at the Plaza Theatre. You are invited to wear a bathrobe out on the town and encouraged to enjoy a few White Russians while you watch the Coen Brothers' brilliant film about two men named Lebowski, an area rug, a group of German nihilists and a missing trophy wife. The alt-country band Cold Water will be performing before the film begins. $10 for members, $13 for non-members. The Dude abides! eventbrite.ca.

Barenaked Ladies

The Barenaked Ladies come to the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium on Jan. 21. The group is currently touring with their latest album, Grinning Streak. These guys have sold more than 14 million albums, played for audiences for 25 years and have made 12 studio albums together. Their latest album is already getting attention with the single Boomerang. You'll also be delighted to hear classics like One Week and If I Had $1,000,000. You can call 403-297-8000 for tickets.

ADHD Comedy

In the tradition of Saturday Night Live, ADHD takes audiences for a wild ride with sketch comedy skits that are five minutes or less. The latest skits include: Hipster Makeover, Grandma Sketch Auto and Tim Horton's Diva. You'll laugh, you'll cry and then you'll wonder why you don't come to more ADHD shows. Come out to Dickens Pub on Jan. 21 at 8 p.m. to get your funny bone tickled. Tickets are $10, and if you need more information you can visit sketchcomedycalgary.com. Dickens Pub is located at 1000 9th Avenue SW.

Heap and Pebble

If you're looking for a little entertainment during your lunch hour, you should visit Lunchbox Theatre this week. The latest and wackiest performance is called How Heap and Pebble Took On The World And Won and follows the story of Slovakian world champion figure skaters that are now competing in a post-apocalyptic environment where ice no longer exists. The hilarious and absurd theatre performance will run until the 25th of January. Tickets are $28 and the running time is one hour. lunchboxtheatre.com.

The Walrus Talks

The Walrus organization presents the Walrus Talks series on Jan. 28 at Jack Singer Concert Hall, which is all about discussing issues that are of great significance to Canadians. This year the theme is 'Tomorrow' and the guests include a successful mobile app creator, a brilliant physicist, Juno Award-winner Shad and Les Stroud, who is best known as Survivorman. Each guest will have seven minutes to present their insight on what tomorrow holds for Canadians. 403-294-9494. Event begins at 7 p.m.

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- Ability to thrive under pressure in a fast paced, multi-faceted and deadline driven environment with strong attention to detail (typography, copy, grammar, layout, images, colour, etc)
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metro

Flames goalie Reto Berra reacts after surrendering a goal in a 5-2 loss to the Jets on Thursday at the Scotiabank Saddledome. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flames in need of home improvement

NHL. Calgary sinks to new low, setting record with seventh straight loss as host

On Thursday

Jets	Flames
5	2

Olli Jokinen had a goal and an assist against his former team to lead the Winnipeg Jets to a 5-2 victory over the Flames on Thursday, as Calgary suffered its record-setting seventh consecutive loss on home ice.

Bryan Little and Mark Schieffle also had one goal-one assist nights as the Jets scored twice in the first period, opened up a 4-0 lead after 40 minutes and cruised to their second consecutive win under new head coach Paul Maurice.

Maurice was hired Sunday, the same day that former Jets coach Claude Noel was fired. Winnipeg won 5-1 over Phoenix in Maurice's debut on Monday.

Dustin Byfuglien and Jacob Trouba also scored for Winnipeg (21-23-5). The Jets won for just the second time in their last eight road games.

Mark Giordano and Lance Bouma scored for Calgary (16-26-6), which hits the road for games in Vancouver and San Jose next.

The Flames have been outscored 22-4 during this terrible stretch at the Scotiabank Saddledome, as Calgary broke its previous mark of six straight losses set in December 1998.

Home or away, goal scoring has been a real trouble spot of late.

Calgary has mustered only 12 goals in its last 11 games. They have lost nine of those games to sit 28th in the NHL, three points up on Edmonton. The last-place Buffalo Sabres have climbed within six of the Flames.

Flames goalie Reto Berra had 18 stops. The 27-year-old first-year goaltender from Switzerland has a record of 5-14-2. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Rays value Price at $14M a year

Three-time AL all-star David Price and the Tampa Bay Rays have agreed to a $14-million, one-year contract, the highest single-season salary in franchise history.

The 2012 Cy Young Award winner has been the subject of trade speculation after going 10-8 with a 3.33 ERA last year while earning $10,112,500. He is eligible for free agency after the 2015 season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minor-league deal

Jays bring in utility man Getz

The Toronto Blue Jays have agreed to terms with infielder Chris Getz on a 2014 minor-league contract with an invitation to attend major-league spring training.

Getz, 30, spent last season with Kansas City Royals, batting .220 with one home run, 18 RBIs and 16 stolen bases in 78 games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eyes on Sochi

"The power of the mind is very strong and I've really come to understand that right now. This is another step closer."

Steven Stamkos who practised with his Tampa Bay Lightning teammates on Thursday. A member of Canada's Olympic team, Stamkos remains confident he will be healed from a broken right shin in time to play in Sochi.

Serena Williams celebrates winning her third-round match early Friday. MATT KING/GETTY IMAGES

Serena tops Aussie Open list in wins

Five-time champion Serena Williams has now won more matches at the Australian Open than any other woman, notching career win No. 61 in scorching conditions Friday as she advanced to the fourth round with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Daniela Hantuchova.

Williams converted her fourth match point on No. 31-seeded Hantuchova's serve to finish it off in one hour and 20 minutes, keeping her time on court to a minimum during the once-in-a-century heat wave gripping Melbourne. She has only dropped 12 games in three straight-set wins this week.

The No. 1-ranked Williams equaled Margaret Court's Australian Open mark of 60 wins with her second-round victory, and on Friday matched Lindsay Davenport's record of 69 main-draw matches here in the Open era. That means she'll set another record just by showing up on Sunday, against the winner of the night match between 2011 U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur and former No. 1-ranked Ana Ivanovic.

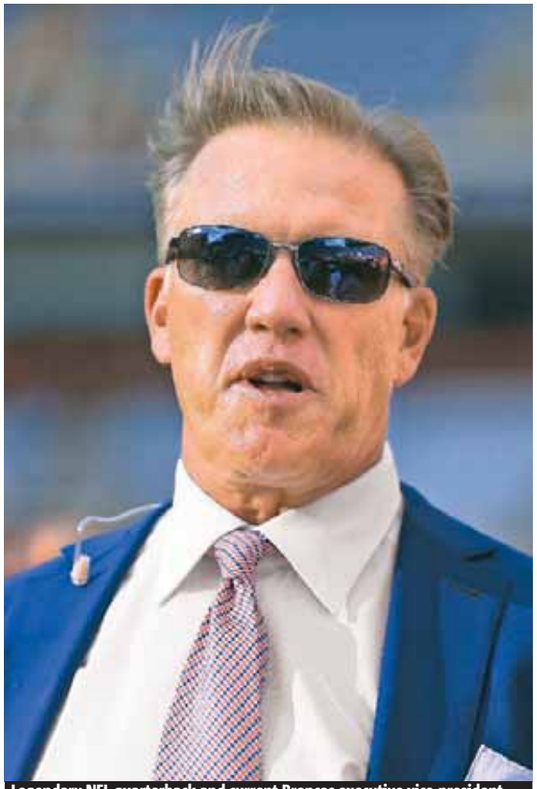
The temperature hit 39 C during Williams' match and was forecast to climb to 44 C later Friday, with match suspensions a possibility on outer courts for the second consecutive day.

Williams has won 24 matches dating back to August, carrying momentum from her dominating 2013 into a new season. She won 78 of her 82 matches and won 11 titles last year, and seems to be getting better with age. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I feel like I just never was really able to reach my full potential, and I feel like recently I just have been able to do a little better."

Serena Williams feels that, at 32 years of age, she is better than ever.



Legendary NFL quarterback and current Broncos executive vice-president John Elway expects to see Peyton Manning in the NFL next year.
DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

Elway on Manning retirement: QB still young, playing well

NFL playoffs. Broncos legend says he'll meet with star after playoffs to discuss his future

John Elway doesn't see Peyton Manning riding off into that orange Rocky Mountain sunset the way Elway did 15 years ago if the Denver Broncos quarterback caps his record-setting season with a second Super Bowl ring.

Elway's body was breaking down, having been sacked 516 times — 244 more than Manning has been in about the same number of games.

"I still think he's young and he's playing well," Elway, now the Broncos' executive vice-president, said Thursday of his quarterback, who's coming off his best statistical season just two years removed from neck problems that weakened his throwing arm. "That's going to come down to Peyton. It's going to come down to what he wants to do."

Manning has given no indication that he's anywhere near calling it quits at age 37, although he has dropped phrases lately like "light at the end of the tunnel" when talking about his career.

Elway takes that to mean Manning knows that whenever he does walk away, these are the days he'll look back on.

Manning is preparing to lead the Broncos (14-3) against Tom Brady and the New England Patriots (13-4) Sunday in the AFC championship.

Elway said he'll meet with Manning after the season to talk about his future. But the four-time MVP, who will likely have No. 5 soon, certainly doesn't seem to be wringing the last Sundays out of his battered body like Elway was doing back in 1998. After all, Manning has thrown for 97 touchdowns in his two seasons in Denver, including an NFL-record 55 this season.

"When you leave this game, you want to leave it on your last leg and try not to leave anything on the table," said Elway.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL royalty

"There is a fraternity and there is a closeness among quarterbacks."

Former Broncos quarterback John Elway, on his relationship with Peyton Manning.

NFL playoffs

The curse of McDaniels

For a brief time, Josh McDaniels was a celebrity in Denver and he played the part with gusto — running to the corner of the stadium after his first signature win and pumping his fists at the crowd to celebrate.

The fun ended almost as quickly as it began.

And less than five years after that big win over New England vaulted the Broncos to an unexpected 5-0 record, the name "Josh McDaniels" stirs up far more angst and anger in Denver than those of the men he beat that day, Bill Belichick and Tom Brady.

"I ain't got nothing to say about him," says Broncos defensive lineman Robert Ayers, a first-round draft pick during the two-year McDaniels era that fans would love to forget.

The man who alienated fans and left the franchise holding the bag on the Tim Tebow experiment returns Sunday to try to deliver another dagger to Denver.

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CASH SAVINGS <$3,500>
THROWBACK PAYMENT $111/BW O DOWN* CASH PURCHASE PRICE $24,100

2014 SORENTO LX AWD
STK# 539005
OWN IT FROM $30,760
CASH SAVINGS <$3,500>
THROWBACK PAYMENT $145/BW O DOWN* CASH PURCHASE PRICE $27,260

2014 FORTE LX PLUS
STK#165495
OWN IT FROM $21,880
CASH SAVINGS <$2,000>
THROWBACK PAYMENT $105/BW O DOWN* CASH PURCHASE PRICE $19,880

2013 RIO 5 LX
STK# 893714
OWN IT FROM $16,000
CASH SAVINGS <$2,500>
THROWBACK PAYMENT $66/BW O DOWN* CASH PURCHASE PRICE $13,500

2014 RONDO LX
OWN IT FROM $23,710
CASH SAVINGS <$4,000>
THROWBACK PAYMENT $86/BW O DOWN* CASH PURCHASE PRICE $19,710

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Your mind will be moving fast over the next few days as you look to make your ideas pay. But don't make any decisions until after the Sun changes signs on the 20th. Only then will the way forward be clear.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Something will happen today that annoys you. But when you think about it, you will realize that it makes no difference to your plans. Carry on with what you were going to do.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Don't listen to those who say you are too far out with your ideas for your own good. They may think you are crazy but it all makes perfect sense to you, and that's what matters.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You should make yourself known to important people over the next 24 hours. People in positions of authority will be open to your ideas and before you know it, you could find yourself promoted.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Today's Mercury-Uranus link will help you to see things way ahead of everyone else. However, other aspects warn that what you see over the weekend may be misleading, so don't get carried away.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
According to the planets, you are too close to a project and need to step back a bit if you are to get a realistic view of how you are doing — and what you need to do next.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You don't have to make an issue of every challenge. You will progress quicker if you ignore whatever does not take you closer to your goals.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Try not to make decisions for loved ones because, no matter how well intentioned, they are sure to resent it. Let them learn from their own mistakes and be there to help them up off the floor if they need it.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Someone you meet today will open your eyes to new possibilities. But that does not mean you should drop what you are doing and head off in a new direction. Wait for the Sun to change signs on Monday before making decisions.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The planets warn you could easily be fooled by someone who knows how to play on your insecurities. Don't fall for their lies. If you do, you will have only yourself to blame.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The best way to help yourself today is to help others. With mind planet Mercury linked nicely to your ruler Uranus, you have a knack for knowing what those around you need.

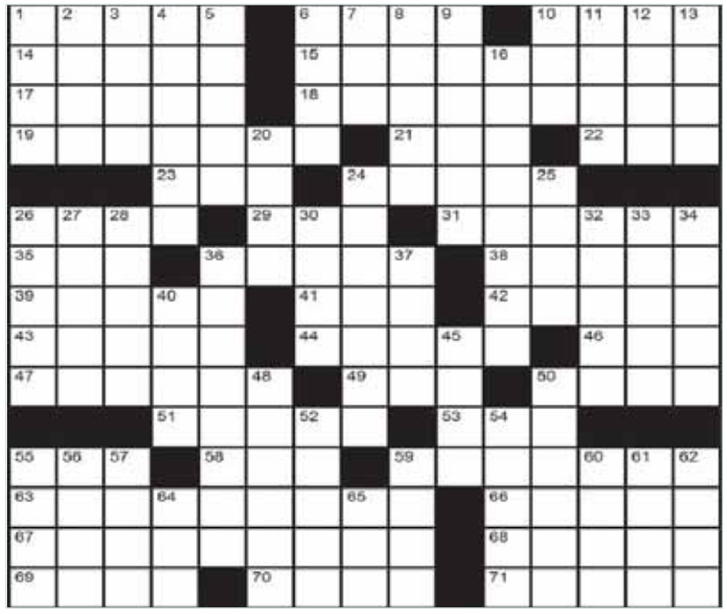
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Sometimes things go wrong for a reason and sometimes for no reason at all. What goes wrong today will most likely fall in the latter category but it's really no big deal. Come Monday you will have forgotten all about it.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



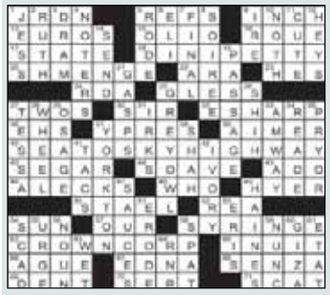
Across

1. __ Harbour, NWT
6. 'Different' suffix
10. __ Spumante wine
14. Mr. Blake of ragtime piano
15. Canadian actor, b.1916 - d.2006: 2 wds.
17. Vertical
18. Procedure
19. Its practitioners adapt their movements to the environment to overcome physical obstacles
21. Old French coin
22. Roxy Music's Brian
23. Nav. rank
24. Craft-making fabrics
26. Kill
29. Genetic stuff
31. Agile
35. Poetry contraction
36. __-totsy
38. Hex
39. Cartoon style
41. Cable network Showtime's website, __.com
42. Quartz variety
43. "That's __ nonsense." ...said the cow about something ridiculous
44. Nicknamed "Happy Days" character: 2 wds.
46. Grassy roll
47. Mick Jagger's first wife
49. Paddle
50. Naja Hajes
51. Donald Sutherland flick, "Max __ Returns" (1983)
53. Mil. rank
55. Superstar
58. Roman Myth: Household deity
59. That catchy tune you just can't get out of your head
63. "__ of Miracles" (1961) starring #15-Across
66. Google alternative
67. Ex-Atlanta hockey players
68. Colgate competitor
69. Inner light
70. "The Dame __ Experience"
71. Iceland's stories

Down

1. Permeate
2. Radiant light
3. "Ten-four." sayer
4. "ET Canada" host Cheryl
5. Place atop: 2 wds.
6. Dr. Frankenstein's pal
7. Matterhorn, for one
8. Queen of Burlesque, Dita Von __
9. Sign up
10. Morn's follower
11. Silk: French
12. 1982 Sci-Fi movie
13. "__ __ idea." (That's news to me)
16. Tragically Hip's "__ Disaster"
20. "'Till Death __ __ Part" (BBC comedy on which "All in the Family" was based)
24. "Cityline": __ Friday
25. Conceited
26. Baseball great Rusty
27. Toronto-born singer Ms. Ortega
28. Actress Ms. Valli
30. US crash-investigating agcy.
32. Music quintet, Canadian __
33. Bar, in law
34. Oboist's props
36. "The Legend of __" (2014)
37. Fitness sort
40. Repair
45. Medieval chest
48. Laurentians locale, Ste-__
50. NB's Premier, David __
52. Barked
54. Jonathan __, Juan Peron in "Evita" (1996)
55. Li'l living lairs
56. Salmon sort
57. Shoe shade
59. "Born Free" (1966) lioness
60. Uttered "That's nice dear."
61. Civil Rights leader Ms. Parks
62. Bons __ (Wittisms)
64. Mr. Penn
65. Archaeological find

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		6			8	1	
2				9		7		6
8				3				
	8	2			7		5	
				8				
	4		2			3	7	
				6				3
9		8		2				1
	5	3			4		8	

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	6	7	2	1	9	3	8	4
9	8	3	5	7	4	6	2	1
4	1	2	3	8	6	7	9	5
3	5	8	9	6	7	4	1	2
1	7	9	4	2	5	8	6	3
6	2	4	8	3	1	5	7	9
2	3	6	1	4	8	9	5	7
8	9	1	7	5	3	2	4	6
7	4	5	6	9	2	1	3	8

Weather

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
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